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Vol. 25 No. 18

September 16, 2000

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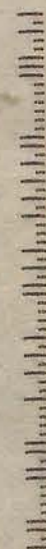
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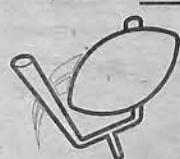
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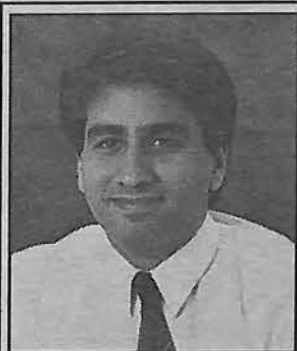
Former Bucs lineman provides few secrets

When new Bears defensive tackle **Brad Culpepper** huddled with offensive coordinator **Gary Crowton** and offensive line coach **Bob Wylie** after practice one day last week, it wasn't exactly a meeting between CIA operatives. In fact, more secrets are probably exchanged in the hallway outside a junior high dance.

Culpepper was released last month after playing six seasons with the Buccaneers, but said he could provide few secrets that would be of value to his new team as the Bears prepared to play at Tampa Bay last Sunday.

"Everybody thinks you can get plays or whatever," Culpepper said in advance of the game. "The Bucs are fairly vanilla. What you see on film is what you get. That's what I'm trying to tell the guys here. They're not going to try to surprise anybody. There's no real secrets out there. I tell them about certain behaviors of certain players, but as far as secrets on key words, that stuff really doesn't matter."

"If you start trying to trick people and think you've got secrets ... the next thing you know, you're thinking too much out there and you're not playing your game. I think all that stuff's overrated."



By Larry Mayer
Managing Editor

Caught on tape

Vikings defensive end **Talance Sawyer** was fined \$7,500 by the NFL for his vicious late hit on Bears quarterback **Cade McNown** in the Sept. 3 season opener at the Metrodome. Sawyer drilled McNown with a helmet-first shot that drew a 15-yard penalty. Unfortunately for the Bears, tackle **Blake Brockermeyer** retaliated and was flagged for unsportsmanlike conduct, negating a 14-yard reception by **Alonzo Mayes** and the penalty yardage that would have been tacked on.

Brockermeyer cost the Bears 29 yards and a shot at a trying field goal in the fourth quarter of the 30-27 loss. But several teammates defended his action. One person who didn't approve of the play but understood why Brockermeyer acted as he did was head coach **Dick Jauron**.

"We've talked about those kind of situations a lot," Jauron said. "That situation is a unique one. In no way do we want that to occur. They took a big play off the board. On the other hand, I thought it was a brutal hit on the quarterback in the open field where our quarterback was lying on the ground. 'Brock' thought he was hurt badly. He lost control. Does that make it right? No. We had (29) yards of offense wiped out because he lost control. It's something we don't want to have happen and it's unfortunate that it did happen. On the other hand, you can understand what he sees and what he feels at the time."

That explains it

Many observers wondered why the Bears went with five receivers and no running backs on a key third-and-one play in the third quarter against the Vikings. McNown's pass intended for **Macey Brooks** was incomplete and the Bears had to punt.

It turns out that Crowton thought receiver **Eddie Kennison** had made a first down on the previous play. So that's why **Curtis Enis**, who converted 12 of 13 chances on third-and-one last season, wasn't in the game for the play.

Big man on campus

The Bears had former Packers defensive tackle **Gilbert Brown** in for a workout last Tuesday but did not sign him. Brown was listed at 345 pounds when he played for Green Bay, but the Bears felt he wasn't in good enough football shape to help them. Asked how much Brown weighed, vice president of personnel **Mark Hatley** said, "He was big. I'll leave it at that."

Live coverage on internet

Fans worldwide can now tune into live Bears broadcasts on www.chicagobears.com. The exclusive program will feature the entire 2000 Bears season broadcast live over the internet.

"We know there are millions of Bears fans all over the world," said team president and CEO **Ted Phillips**. "It has been a priority for us to make sure that all Bears fans throughout the state and the world will have the opportunity to follow this team live."

IN THE SPOTLIGHT

Book it: Ditka a good read



Hall of Famer Mike Ditka is a man of integrity, honesty, and strength. He is his own man. And he is real. And there's no place to read more entertaining stories about the Bears legend than in the new book, "Da Coach--Irreverent Stories from Mike Ditka's Players, Coaches, and Friends." The book, published by Triumph Books, also reveals Ditka's own thoughts about football, fame and life.

Love him or hate him, Mike Ditka ducks no punches and fights the good fight. The tough, no-holds-barred stories told in the book show Da Coach through the eyes of the people closest to him. Here's a sample:

NBA legend Jerry West on playing basketball against Ditka at Pitt: "Early in the game, I faked out my defender and was driving for an easy layup. Ditka absolutely creamed me and deposited me over this curtain that kept dust off the floor."

Walt Garrison on playing with Ditka on the Dallas Cowboys: "Ditka got his teeth knocked out in an auto accident the year he joined us. He flipped his car over a parked car, went through the windshield and broke his jaw. The dentist told Ditka, 'We can wire your teeth shut, but you can't play tomorrow. Or we can pull them.' Ditka said, 'Pull the sonuvabitches.'"

Jim McMahon on playing under Ditka in Chicago: "Ditka came into the locker room and started pounding on an equipment locker (after an overtime loss at Baltimore). All of a sudden, he looked up at the train-

er and said, 'I think I broke my hand.' He had. We didn't know whether to laugh or cry."

Gale Sayers on his former teammate: "Even when he was hurt, he would take shots in his knees and ankles to play, because Mike Ditka on one leg is better than a second-string tight end on three legs."

Cowboys legend Tom Landry: "I don't know of anyone more fiercely competitive than Mike ... and not just about football. I used to play a little tennis with (him) during training camps. For (him), tennis was a contact sport."

Pennsylvania native and NFL assistant coach Foge Fazio: "Mike is such a competitor. He was playing shortstop in one of our games, and someone hit a ball out to center field, where his brother Ashton was playing. Ashton came in and got the ball, but he didn't throw it to the cut-off guy. Mike was so (angry) he threw his hat down and went after Ashton. Ashton saw him coming, took off running, and went over a chain-link fence to get out of his way. The game was delayed until Mike got back."

Edinger off to a good start

By Larry Mayer
Managing Editor

Paul Edinger was probably the only player on the Bears roster who enjoyed opening the season in the Metrodome.

Kicking on artificial turf without worrying about wind or other natural elements, the rookie sixth-round pick made field goals of 29 and 49 yards and three extra points without a miss in the Bears' 30-27 loss to the Vikings.

"It feels real good," said Edinger, who edged out Jaret Holmes in a preseason battle for the job. "I got a great start, and that was the best place to start it too."

Kicking for Michigan State against Minnesota, Edinger made all four field goals he attempted in

his last appearance at the Metrodome. In his NFL debut, he even was credited with a tackle when he pushed Tyrone Carter, a former Golden Gopher, out of bounds on a kickoff return.

"I'm real happy with everything I did," said Edinger, the first kicker drafted by the Bears since Kevin Butler in 1985. "I did real well and I feel real comfortable right now."

In the preseason, Edinger made 5 of 6 field goal attempts with his only miss coming from 54 yards. Despite his success, he entered the season opener with a clean slate.

"It was time to start all over," he said. "I had zero field goals and just needed to go out and make each one."



Rookie Paul Edinger celebrates with holder Brent Bartholomew after kicking a 49-yard field goal in the season opener.

THEY SAID IT



“
We'll be talking trash
to each other, all right.
That's how we
became friends.
”

Bears CB Thomas Smith, prior to facing friendly rival Keyshawn Johnson in Tampa



LOSS OF A LEGEND: Bears Hall of Famer George Musso died last week at the age of 90.

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BUSY MAN: Glyn Milburn returned seven kickoffs in Sunday's humiliating 41-0 blowout loss at Tampa.

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UNSUNG HERO: Bears receiver Bobby Engram may be the most underappreciated player in the NFL.

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Cover photo by Steve Woltmann

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NEWS

14-17 Lopsided loss: All the talk about how the Bears had closed the huge gap in the NFC Central and were ready to contend for the playoffs this season was just that—talk.



Photo by William Garrow

Nowhere to hide

Ronde Barber chases Bears QB Cade McNown during Sunday's 41-0 loss at Tampa Bay. Barber had 2.5 sacks and returned a fumble for a TD.



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COVER STORY

Enis may be losing ground in backfield

MARK POTASH



You can almost see it coming:

"He made some plays. He just didn't make enough," Bears vice president of player personnel Mark Hatley said. "I don't want to bash anybody on any of that stuff...he just didn't fit. For whatever reason, he just wasn't consistent enough in his play."

Hatley made that comment on cut-down day about defensive tackle Russell Davis, but how long will it be before he says the same thing about Curtis Enis? When Enis had four carries for 11 yards and James Allen had nine carries for 60 yards in the season opener at

Minnesota, it seemed to confirm what a lot of people think: Allen, not Enis, is the best running back for this offense.

Dick Jauron isn't ready to admit that.

"As we said last year, and we still feel the same way," Jauron said, "we want to play them both, play them situationally and personnel-wise. I liked the way they both handled it and the way they both performed."

Enis's role could be expanded at any time, depending on the situation. "Absolutely," Jauron said. "It's just a function of the [Minnesota] game. If one was really warmed up and running well, it's not unlike any other position—go in with a plan and if certain things work, there's no reason to go away from them."

"We like the plan we have with both of those guys. Marlon Barnes [who was inactive against the Vikings] may figure in at some point. We're very pleased with James and Curtis."

Regardless of that debate, one thing is painfully clear: Enis is not a good fit for this offense. He's a power back who, was drafted fifth overall in 1998 to run over and wear down opponents. The idea was for Enis to be bowl-

ing over weary defenders in the fourth quarter of a game on a rainy and cold day at Soldier Field.

"He has a chance to be a dominant player in the league for a long time," Hatley said on draft day in 1998. "He was head and shoulders above every player left on the board."

That includes Grant Wistrom (sixth), Fred Taylor (ninth), Randy Moss (21st) and Donovan Darius (25th). But after a knee injury and the coaching change that brought Gary Crowton's offense to Chicago, the draft day prospectus for Enis has been rendered obsolete.

It's becoming more apparent each week that Enis' best chance to be a dominant back in the NFL will be with another team. It's pretty hard to be dominant with four carries in a game.

And therein lies the irony of Enis' situation: a year ago he was getting 20-27 carries a game and it was too many. Now he's getting four and it's too few. Enis finally has reached the point where he finally is comfortable running at the higher weight. Even if he was not productive against Minnesota he ran with power. On one play he knocked over teammate Todd Perry, then bulled through two defenders for a six-yard gain. He also had a nice run after a catch for a 15-yard gain.

If anything, he needs more carries to accelerate his development. But he might not get the chance. Not in this offense, not if Allen keeps producing. Not if Barnes gets a chance.

"It would have been nice [to get more carries against Minnesota]," Enis said. "But James was on. He was playing well. They didn't want to break up what he was trying to do. That's just the way it worked. When you get your opportunities you have to maximize them and that's what I wanted to do."

Enis has grown up in the past two years. He's handled the running back debate well, refusing to complain about the lack of opportunities or the presence of Allen as an equal in the backfield. But it might be too late. It appears the most he can hope for this year is to become part of a change-of-pace tandem with Allen or Barnes. That can't be what he envisioned when he entered the league two years ago.

"That's fine," he said. "I really don't know what's going to happen. All I know is when I go out there, I just bust my butt and do what I can do to help this team win. It would hinder my play if I even worried about that."



Photo by Steve Woltmann

After rushing 27 times in last season's game at Minnesota, Curtis Enis had just four carries in the Sept. 3 season opener in the Metrodome.

"Obviously James Allen and Curtis Enis aren't the same type of back," Perry said. "They're not built the same way. They don't run the same way."

"You can argue a quicker back is better for this offense. But we've got James, who has speed and quickness; and we've got Curtis running over guys [Sunday]. I kind of like that. At any point a defense is going to have to look and see who's back there. Are you going to get Curtis' pounding or the quickness and elusiveness of James?"

Asked if it is the back he expected to be, Enis said, "It's too early for that. There's a lot going on. You know how the NFL is—the length of the season and the things that happen. It's too early right now."

"I didn't expect to have a knee injury [his rookie year], but coming back, I felt I fully recovered from it. Through the course of the [Minnesota] game I got back to doing the things that got me here—keep the chains moving, running through tackles. Just playing hard."

Enis knows his best role is "wearing people out." But he was diplomatic when it was suggested he needs more than four carries a game to do that.

"Opportunities come. You've got to make the most of them," Enis said. "I had four or five opportunities [against Minnesota]. I tried to make the most out of all of them."

"I think that's what I'm supposed to do. My knee's fine. I got my weight back. I thought I did some things well when I got the opportunity. That's the only thing I can do."

Mark Potash covers the Bears for the Chicago Sun-Times.



"I really don't know what's going to happen. All I know is when I go out there, I just bust my butt and do what I can do to help this team win."

Curtis Enis

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Bears keep Kid Cade on the run

QB's rushing ability 'nature of his game'

By Larry Mayer
Managing Editor

Cade McNown probably led the NFL in bruises after Week 1, but his days as a running threat are far from over.

The second-year quarterback will remain an integral part of the ground attack if opposing defenses leave the middle of the field open as the Minnesota Vikings did in the season opener. In that game, McNown rushed for a team-high and career-best 87 yards on 10 carries. The 6-1, 208-pounder gained 46 yards on five quarterback draws and 41 yards including an 8-yard TD on five scrambles.

"You'll see it," said Bears head coach Dick Jauron. "I think it's the nature of his game. It's the nature of our game. A lot of them are designed runs and a lot of his scrambles aren't designed. It'll always be in our game plan. It's a weapon. It's hard to defend against. It's very difficult to defend a quarterback that can maneuver in the open field and beat you with his arms and his legs."

McNown's 87 rushing yards against Minnesota were the most by a Bears quarterback since Bobby Douglass had 100 in a 31-17 win at Green Bay on Nov. 4, 1973. In that game, Douglass rushed for four touchdowns, a feat Walter Payton never accomplished. The top five rushing games by a quarterback — 127, 117, 100, 97 and 88 — all belong to Douglass.

Marcus Robinson probably would rather have McNown focus on throwing the ball, but the Bears' top wide receiver understands his quarterback must utilize his multi-dimensional talent.

"He knows what he's got to do to help this team win," said Robinson, who caught a 48-yard TD pass from McNown against the Vikings. "If he's got to scramble or do whatever to get yardage, then let him do it. Hopefully he'll learn to slide a little bit more, but that's Cade. He's going to run up in there. He doesn't think anybody can hurt him. If that's what he's got to do to help us win, then I have no problem with it."

McNown also did damage with his arm in

DID YOU KNOW?

In the season opener, Cade McNown became the first quarterback to lead the Bears in rushing since Jim Harbaugh had 61 yards in a 19-17 win at Kansas City on Nov. 21, 1993.



Photo by Steve Woltmann

Cade McNown was the second leading rusher on the Bears last season when he gained 160 yards on 32 carries, a 5.0 yards per carry average.

the opener. He completed 27 of 41 passes for 290 yards with 2 TDs and no interceptions. His 102.7 passer rating after Week 1 ranked second in the NFC to Super Bowl MVP Kurt Warner (106.5). None of the other five members of the quarterback draft class of 1999 cracked the century mark. Cincinnati's Akili Smith had the weekend off while Cleveland's Tim Couch (97.8), Tampa Bay's Shaun King (86.6), Minnesota's Daunte Culpepper (65.5) and Philadelphia's Donovan McNabb (51.2) all fell short. Culpepper, of course, rushed for 73 yards and 3 TDs in Minnesota's 30-27 win over the Bears.

As McNown prepared for last Sunday's game in Tampa, he revealed that he watched more film of the Bucs than any other team during the offseason. The reason is that no team made him look more like the rookie he was in 1999 than Tampa Bay. In the first meeting between the clubs last season, McNown was benched in the third quarter after completing just 9 of 23 passes for 82 yards with 1 interception. In the rematch, he was 20 of 42 for 196

yards with 1 interception. The Bears did not score a touchdown in either game against Tampa Bay last season, the only two times that happened all year.

Asked if he considered last Sunday's game in Tampa a personal challenge, the second-year quarterback from UCLA said: "It goes in line with the challenge to our team. We're 0-1 right now. We want to come away with a win. The best way to go about that is going down there and putting points on the board."

"I feel my responsibility as a quarterback is to go out there and throw accurate passes, read the defense quick, and just do what I'm coached to do. If I do that and everybody else is doing their job, we'll score points. I really believe we're capable of doing that."



"It's very difficult to defend a quarterback that can maneuver in the open field and beat you with his arms and his legs."

Dick Jauron

Backup quarterback Jim Miller is among those who believe in McNown. The veteran has been impressed with McNown's improvement in the offense and pointed to his performance in the season-opener as evidence.

"It's like night and day," Miller said. "Cade's so much further along in the offense. Cade played an exceptional game (against the Vikings). He did all the right things. You're going to miss a couple passes here and there. But those are correctable. He didn't have mental errors and that's a huge part of the game. At our position, the game is played 90 percent from the head up. You see he's more confident in his reads and what he's doing. I just think he's going to get better and better."

Asked what errors McNown made last season, Miller said: "Missed reads, reading the wrong guys, throwing to the wrong side of the field, reading the wrong coverages—you name it, he did it. (But) he's not doing that this year. He knows that holding out of training camp hurt him. That put him behind the eight-ball right off the bat. He got better as the year went on and now he's so much further."

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GAME PREVIEW



NEW YORK GIANTS

Facts and Figures

Kickoff: Noon (ct), Sunday, Sept. 17.
Site: Soldier Field, Chicago.
Capacity: 66,944.
Playing surface: Grass.
Last meeting: Bears won 27-24 at Giants Stadium on Nov. 26, 1995. Kevin Butler snapped a 24-24 tie with a 37-yard field goal, Michael Timpson scored 2 TDs and Erik Kramer passed for 268 yards and 2 TDs.
Series: Bears lead 30-19-2 but have lost last two at Soldier Field.
Did you know: Bill Clinton, then campaigning for President, attended Bears-Giants Monday night game at Soldier Field on Sept. 21, 1992.



CHICAGO BEARS

at

Bears trying to prove East is least



Bears defensive linemen Jim Flanigan and Clyde Simmons hope to put the wraps on Giants quarterback Kerry Collins Sunday at Soldier Field.

By Gene Chamberlain
 Bear Report Correspondent

The Bears' two NFC East Division opponents last year were not dazzled by coordinator Gary Crowton's offense and were even less impressed by the team's defense.

The Bears lost 20-16 at home to a lowly 5-11 Philadelphia team and were beaten by the Redskins 48-22. Their defense gave up 20 points to the Eagles in the first half and 31 to the Redskins by halftime. Washington led 45-0 before the Bears staged a mini-rally. The Bears defense allowed 263 rushing yards and 429 passing yards in the games.

Sunday's opponent, the New York Giants, are the only non-divisional opponents the Bears play in the first five weeks this season and they'll be out to reverse trends against the NFC East that stretch back to 1995.

Since beating the Giants 27-24 in 1995, the only NFC East team the Bears have

beaten is Dallas.

The Bears' secondary faces a revamped Giants passing game. New York installed a new passing offense under offensive coordinator Sean Payton, a former "Spare Bear" in the 1987 strike and an Eastern Illinois University stand-out. They hope to take advantage of the arm of quarterback Kerry Collins.

However, the Giants remain largely a running team, so in a sense, the game last week with Tampa Bay proved preparation for this week.

The Giants rushed 41 times for 223 yards in the season-opener with Arizona. Much like Tampa Bay uses Warrick Dunn and Mike Alstott, the Giants employ a one-two rushing combination with Tiki Barber serving as starter and breakaway threat and Heisman winner Ron Dayne providing the power.

Barber had 144 yards on 13 tries including two TDs in the opener, while Dayne had 78 yards rushing on 23 carries.

Defensively, Cade McNown, Curtis Enis and the offense face a Giants team which forced four Arizona turnovers in the opener and last year finished 13th in total defense.

The Bears beat the Giants in the pre-season opener at Giants Stadium 20-8 but their first-teamers were outplayed and trailed 8-3 at halftime. The reserves pulled it out. Quarterback Mark Hartsell, who did not make the final roster, rallied the Bears by throwing a 3-yard TD pass to Macey Brooks and setting up a field goal.

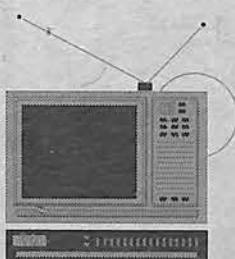
For the game, the Bears managed only 198 yards of offense against 401 for the Giants. Chicago's defense allowed New York to convert 10 of 20 third down opportunities and possess the ball for 40 minutes. Collins completed 15-of-18 passes for 117 yards against the revamped Bears secondary.

The Bears have won 13 of the last 16 home-openers, but are only 2-2 in their last four home openers.

ON THE AIR

Television:

The Fox Network will televise the game live to a regional audience.





Radio:

WBBM-AM (780) will carry the game live with Gary Bender, Hub Arkush and Tom Thayer announcing.



Who rates the advantage?

By Gene Chamberlain

		Positions	Comments
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Quarterback	McNown prevails over Kerry Collins due to mobility.
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Running back	Tiki Barber, Ron Dayne both better than any Bears.
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Wide receiver	Giants talk about their new offense, but still ignore wideouts.
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Tight end	Howard Cross solid starter. Injuries have plagued Allred.
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Offensive line	Lomas Brown a relic. Linemates are mostly journeymen.
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Defensive line	Strahan, Jones, Peter as good or better than any in NFC.
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Linebackers	Armstead, Barrow speedier than Minter, Holdman.
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Secondary	Giants lacking speed. Bears DBs susceptible to big plays.
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Special teams	Daluiso's deep kickoffs negate Milburn's threat.



NEW YORK GIANTS



CHICAGO BEARS

No.	Name	Pos.	Ht.	Wt.	Age	Yr.	College
3	Brad Daluiso	PK	6-2	210	32	10	UCLA
5	Kerry Collins	QB	6-5	245	27	6	Penn State
9	Brad Maynard	P	6-1	190	26	4	Ball State
17	Jason Garrett	QB	6-2	200	34	8	Princeton
18	Mike Cherry	QB	6-4	225	26	4	Murray State
20	Sam Games	S	6-3	225	26	4	Cincinnati
21	Tiki Barber	RB	5-10	200	25	4	Virginia
22	Ralph Brown	CB	5-10	185	22	R	Nebraska
23	Omar Stoutmire	S	5-11	198	26	4	Fresno State
25	Ramos McDonald	CB	5-11	202	24	3	New Mexico
26	Emmanuel McDaniels	CB	5-9	180	28	5	East Carolina
27	Ron Dayne	RB	5-10	253	22	R	Wisconsin
28	Reggie Stephens	CB	5-9	200	25	1	Rutgers
31	Jason Sehorn	CB	6-2	215	29	7	USC
33	Joe Montgomery	RB	5-10	230	24	2	Ohio State
34	Greg Comella	FB	6-1	248	25	3	Stanford
35	Andre Weathers	CB	6-0	190	24	2	Michigan
36	Shaun Williams	S	6-2	215	23	3	UCLA
37	Lyle West	S	6-0	215	23	2	San Jose St.
41	Dave Thomas	CB	6-3	218	32	8	Tennessee
45	Craig Walendy	FB	6-1	245	23	1	UCLA
51	Pete Monty	LB	6-2	250	26	4	Wisconsin
52	Dusty Zeigler	C	6-5	305	26	5	Notre Dame
53	Brandon Short	LB	6-3	255	23	R	Penn State
58	Mike Barrow	LB	6-2	240	30	8	Miami (FL)
59	Kevin Lewis	LB	6-1	230	21	R	Duke
62	Glenn Parker	G	6-5	312	34	11	Arizona
65	Ron Stone	G	6-5	320	29	8	Boston College
66	Jason Whittle	G	6-4	305	25	2	SW Missouri
69	Derek Engler	C	6-5	300	26	4	Wisconsin
74	Chris Ziemann	T	6-7	315	23	R	Michigan
75	Keith Hamilton	DT	6-6	295	29	9	Pittsburgh
76	Lomas Brown	T	6-4	280	37	16	Florida
77	Luke Petitgout	T	6-6	310	24	2	Notre Dame
78	Mike Rosenthal	G	6-7	315	23	2	Notre Dame
79	Jeremiah Parker	DE	6-5	250	22	R	California
81	Amani Toomer	WR	6-3	208	26	5	Michigan
82	Thabiti Davis	WR	6-2	205	25	1	Wake Forest
83	Pete Mitchell	TE	6-2	248	28	6	Boston College
84	Joe Jurevicius	WR	6-5	230	2	3	Penn State
86	Ron Dixon	WR	6-0	190	24	R	Lambuth (TN)
87	Howard Cross	TE	6-5	270	33	12	Alabama
88	Ike Hilliard	WR	5-11	195	24	4	Florida
89	Dan Campbell	TE	6-5	260	24	2	Texas A&M
90	Jack Golden	LB	6-1	240	23	R	Oklahoma St.
91	Ryan Phillips	LB	6-4	252	26	4	Idaho
92	Michael Strahan	DE	6-5	275	28	8	Texas Southern
93	Ryan Hale	DT	6-4	300	25	2	Arkansas
94	Cedric Jones	DE	6-4	270	26	5	Oklahoma
96	George Williams	DT	6-3	295	24	3	NC State
97	Cornelius Griffin	DT	6-3	300	23	R	Alabama
98	Jessie Armstead	LB	6-1	240	29	8	Miami (FL)
99	Christian Peter	DT	6-3	300	27	4	Nebraska

No.	Name	Pos	Ht	Wt	Age	Exp	College
2	Paul Edinger	K	5-10	162	22	R	Michigan State
8	Cade McNown	QB	6-1	208	23	2	UCLA
9	Shane Matthews	QB	6-3	196	30	7	Florida
12	Brent Bartholomew	P	6-2	220	23	2	Ohio State
15	Jim Miller	QB	6-2	215	28	7	Michigan State
20	James Allen	RB	5-10	215	24	3	Oklahoma
21	R.W. McQuarters	CB	5-9	198	23	3	Oklahoma State
22	Shawn Wooden	S	5-11	205	26	5	Notre Dame
23	Jerry Azumah	CB	5-10	195	22	2	New Hampshire
24	Glyn Milburn	RB/KR	5-8	176	28	8	Stanford
25	Thomas Smith	CB	5-11	190	29	8	North Carolina
27	Walt Harris	CB	5-11	195	26	5	Mississippi State
29	Frankie Smith	S	5-9	194	31	8	Baylor
30	Mike Brown	S	5-10	202	22	R	Nebraska
32	Marlon Barnes	RB	5-9	215	24	1	Colorado
37	Tony Parrish	S	5-10	211	24	3	Washington
43	Mike Green	S	6-0	176	23	R	Northwestern State
44	Curtis Enis	RB	6-0	250	24	3	Penn State
53	Warrick Holdman	LB	6-1	246	24	2	Texas A&M
54	Brian Urlacher	LB	6-3	244	22	R	New Mexico
55	Sean Harris	LB	6-3	252	27	6	Arizona
57	Olin Kreutz	C	6-2	285	23	3	Washington
58	Chris Villarrial	G	6-4	308	27	5	Indiana (PA)
59	Rosevelt Colvin	LB	6-3	254	23	2	Purdue
60	Casey Wiegmann	C	6-3	285	25	5	Iowa
64	Rex Tucker	OL	6-5	315	23	2	Texas A&M
65	Patrick Mannelly	T/LS	6-5	270	25	3	Duke
71	James Williams	T	6-7	331	31	10	Cheyney State (PA)
74	Jimmy Herndon	T	6-8	318	27	5	Houston
75	Todd Perry	G	6-5	308	29	8	Kentucky
76	Brad Culpepper	DT	6-1	270	31	9	Florida
78	Blake Brockermeyer	T	6-4	300	26	6	Texas
79	Jerry Wisne	T	6-6	315	24	2	Notre Dame
80	Dez White	WR	6-0	219	21	R	Georgia Tech
81	Bobby Engram	WR	5-10	185	27	5	Penn State
82	Eddie Kennison	WR	6-0	198	27	5	LSU
83	Macey Brooks	WR	6-5	212	24	2	James Madison
84	John Allred	TE	6-4	246	26	4	USC
85	Alonzo Mayes	TE	6-4	265	25	3	Oklahoma State
86	Marty Booker	WR	5-11	215	24	2	Northwest Louisiana
87	D'Wayne Bates	WR	6-2	215	24	2	Northwestern
88	Marcus Robinson	WR	6-3	215	24	4	South Carolina
89	Dustin Lyman	TE	6-4	250	24	R	Wake Forest
90	Van Tuinei	DE	6-4	290	28	4	Arizona
91	Khari Samuel	LB	6-3	240	23	2	Massachusetts
92	Barry Minter	LB	6-2	250	29	8	Tulsa
93	Phillip Daniels	DE	6-5	290	27	5	Georgia
94	Ty Hallock	LB	6-2	249	29	8	Michigan State
95	Troy Wilson	DE	6-4	257	29	5	Pittsburgh State
96	Clyde Simmons	DE	6-5	292	36	15	Western Carolina
97	Mike Wells	DT	6-3	315	29	8	Iowa
98	Bryan Robinson	DE	6-4	300	26	4	Fresno State
99	Jim Flanigan	DT	6-2	290	29	7	Notre Dame

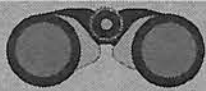
Injured Reserve							
39	Reggie Austin	CB	5-9	173	23	R	Wake Forest
80	Sulecio Sanford	WR	5-10	190	23	1	Middle Tenn. State

Age as of opening weekend 2000

What to Watch

• Home field advantage: It's the Bears' home-opener. Will they put the home field to good use? They had to open with two road games in noisy places. They haven't had a winning record in Soldier Field since 1996, going 8-16 at home over the last three seasons and 3-5 there last year.

• How does rookie kicker Paul Edinger handle the tricky winds in Soldier Field? He's had a little preseason experience, but split time in those games with Jaret Holmes. And preseason games are held at night when the wind has usually died down somewhat.



MEET THE COACHES

Jim Fassel



Jim Fassel, 50, enters his fourth season as Giants head coach. He has compiled a 25-23-1 record including 0-1 in the playoffs and 7-9 last season. In his first year, he led New York to a 10-5-1 record and a playoff berth and was named AP Coach of the Year. Fassel was previously an assistant coach with the Giants, Broncos, Raiders and Cardinals.

Dick Jauron



Dick Jauron, 49, enters his second season as Bears head coach. Last year he led the Bears to a 6-10 record, the most wins by the club since 1996. He guided the Bears to road wins at Minnesota and Green Bay, a feat last accomplished by the 1991 Bears. Jauron played safety for eight NFL seasons with the Detroit Lions and Cincinnati Bengals.



Recent Meetings

Date	Winner (Site)
1995	Bears 27-24 (NJ)
1993	Giants 26-20 (S)
1992	Giants 27-14 (S)
1991	Bears 20-17 (S)
1990	Giants 31-3 (NJ) (Playoffs)
1987	Bears 34-19 (S)
1985	Bears 21-0 (S) (Playoffs)
1977	Bears 12-9 (NJ)
1974	Bears 16-13 (S)
1970	Bears 24-16 (NY)
1969	Giants 28-24 (NY)
1967	Bears 34-7 (W)
1965	Bears 35-14 (NY)

Stadium codes: S (Soldier Field), NJ (Meadowlands), NY (Yankee Stadium), W (Wrigley Field).

KEY MATCHUPS



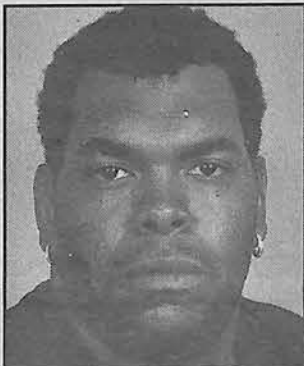
JAMES WILLIAMS

VS.

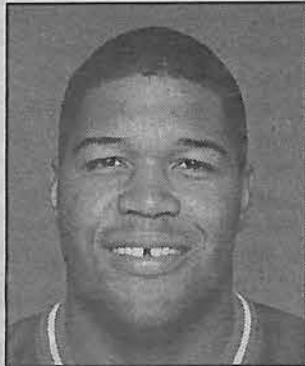
MICHAEL STRAHAN

Strahan, a 6-5, 275-pounder has carried on the Giants' tradition of strong pass rushers and in this game enjoys the advantage of pass rushing from the blind side because Cade McNown is left-handed. In his first six seasons starting, Strahan had 52 1/2 sacks and he's been in the Pro Bowl three straight seasons.

Williams, a 6-foot-7, 340-pounder, held Strahan without a sack in the only matchup between the two in 1995. The Bears did not face Strahan in the preseason game due to an injury.



James Williams



Michael Strahan

JIM FLANIGAN

VS.

RON STONE

Stone, a 6-foot-5, 320-pounder out of Boston College, has started all but two games for the Giants since coming over as a free agent from Dallas before the 1996 season. He has become New York's most consistent run blocker. The Giants' reputation as a running team took a hit last year when they tied for 24th in rushing, but their line started this season with their sixth 200-yard rushing game since Stone came to the team.

His size will be pitted against the 6-2, 288-pound Flanigan, whose strength is getting through gaps.



Jim Flanigan



Ron Stone

MARCUS ROBINSON

VS.

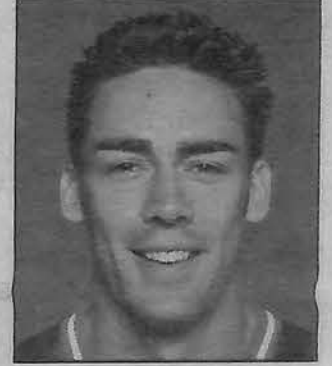
JASON SEHORN

At 6-foot-2, 215 pounds, Sehorn is one of the few cornerbacks who can physically challenge Robinson and larger receivers in general. A baseball player at one time for two years in the Cubs' organization, Sehorn's athleticism was very apparent in 1996 and 1997, when he totaled 11 interceptions.

Robinson was bothered by dehydration in training camp and it caused him to leave the season-opener at Minnesota for a series. He still managed to lead the Bears in receiving yards with 86 on seven catches, including a 48-yard TD.



Marcus Robinson



Jason Sehorn

WHEN THE BEARS HAVE THE BALL

RCB

31 SEHORN
26 McDaniel
25 McDonald

FS

36 WILLIAMS
23 Stoutmire

SS

20 GARNES
37 West

LCB

41 THOMAS
28 Stephens
35 Weathers

WLB

98 ARMSTEAD
90 Golden
59 Lewis

MLB

58 BARROW
51 Monty

SLB

91 PHILLIPS
53 Short

RE

94 JONES
79 Parker

RT

75 HAMILTON
96 Williams

LT

99 PETER
93 Hale

LE

92 STRAHAN
97 Griffin

WR

81 ENGRAM
86 Booker
83 Brooks
87 Bates

LT

78 BROCKMEYER
74 Herndon

LG

75 PERRY
64 Tucker

C

57 KREUTZ
60 Wiegmann

RG

58 VILLARRIAL
64 Tucker

RT

71 WILLIAMS
79 Wisne

TE

84 ALLRED
85 Mayes
89 Lyman

QB

8 MCNOWN
15 Miller
9 Matthews

WR

88 ROBINSON
82 Kennison
80 White

RB

44 ENIS
32 Barnes

RB

20 ALLEN
24 Milburn

WHEN THE GIANTS HAVE THE BALL

RCB

25 SMITH
23 Azumah

FS

30 BROWN
22 Wooden

SS

37 PARRISH
29 Smith
43 Green

LCB

27 HARRIS
21 McQuarters

WLB

53 HOLDMAN
55 Harris

MLB

92 MINTER
91 Samuel
94 Hallock

SLB

59 COLVIN
54 Urlacher

RE

93 DANIELS
96 Simmons

RT

97 WELLS
90 Tuinei

LT

99 FLANIGAN
76 Culpepper

LE

98 ROBINSON
95 Wilson

WR

81 TOOMER
84 Jurevicius

LT

76 BROWN
74 Ziemann

LG

62 PARKER
78 Rosenthal

C

52 ZEIGLER
69 Engler

RG

65 STONE
66 Whittle

RT

77 PETITGOUT
74 Ziemann

TE

87 CROSS
83 Mitchell
89 Campbell

QB

5 COLLINS
17 Garrett
18 Cherry

WR

88 HILLIARD
86 Dixon
82 Davis

RB

21 BARBER
27 Dayne
33 Montgomery

FB

34 COMELLA
45 Walendy



TALE OF THE TAPE

New York Giants
at
Chicago Bears
(Rankings through Week 1)



OFFENSIVE RANKINGS

TOTAL OFFENSE	2 (t)	7
Rushing offense	6	2
Passing offense	5	17
Total yards per play	4	5
Rushing average	3	6
Passing average	10	7
Percentage had intercepted	2 (t)	23 (t)
Sacks allowed per pass play	18	2 (t)
First downs per game	5 (t)	10 (t)
Third down efficiency	3 (t)	6
Fourth down efficiency	16 (t)	16 (t)
Punt return average	7	13 (t)
Kickoff return average	12	29
Gross punt average	30	13
Net punt average	25	6
Points per game	7 (t)	11 (t)
Field goal percentage	1 (t)	24 (t)

DEFENSIVE RANKINGS

TOTAL DEFENSE	22	20
Rushing defense	29	3
Passing defense	17	30
Total yards per play	29	19
Rushing average	30	3
Passing average	27	20 (t)
Percentage intercepted by	7	6
Sacks per pass play	16	26
First downs per game	14 (t)	20
Third down efficiency	24 (t)	20
Fourth down efficiency	1 (t)	17 (t)
Punt return average	1 (t)	20
Kickoff return average	19	28
Gross punt average	6 (t)	16
Net punt average	10 (t)	23
Points per game	27	12 (t)
Opponents' FG percentage	18 (t)	18 (t)

TURN BACK THE CLOCK



Bears placed Giants on ice

By Larry Mayer
Managing Editor

The Bears warmed their fans' hearts on a frigid day at Wrigley Field in 1963 by winning their first NFL championship in 18 years with a 14-10 victory over the New York Giants.

With the game-time temperature at 9 degrees, Giants quarterback Y.A. Tittle capped his team's first possession with a 14-yard TD pass to Frank Gifford, putting New York ahead 7-0. The Bears defense took over from that point on, however, intercepting five passes including two that set up Chicago's only touchdowns.

The Giants nearly extended their lead to 14-0, but Del Shofner dropped Tittle's pass in the end zone. On the next play, Bears linebacker Larry Morris intercepted Tittle and returned it 61 yards to the Giants' 5-yard line. Two plays later, quarterback Bill Wade's 2-yard TD dive tied the game 7-7.

After Don Chandler's 13-yard field gave New York a 10-7 halftime lead, Bears defensive end Ed O'Bradovich intercepted a screen pass and returned it 10 yards to the Giants' 14. Wade picked up a first down on third-and-nine with a pass to tight end Mike Ditka, then sneaked in from the 1 to give the Bears a 14-10 third quarter lead.

With 10 seconds left in the game, the Giants had a final shot from the Bears' 39. Shofner raced downfield, but Tittle's overthrown pass was intercepted in the end zone by Richie Petitbon, who caught the ball like he was field-



Richie Petitbon's last second interception clinched the 1963 title.

As part of every game preview this season in Bear Report, we will take a look back at a memorable game played between the Bears and their upcoming opponent.

BEARS 14, N.Y. Giants 10
Dec. 29, 1963
Wrigley Field

ing a punt. The final pick ignited an outpouring of emotion as the Bears and their fans celebrated what would be George Halas's final championship as head coach.

The next day in the Chicago Tribune, Dave Condon wrote of Petitbon's interception: "That catch was payday at the mill, Christmas at home, the kiss from the best gal, a double shot of 100 proof. This was the fuse that put the Bear fans into orbit."

The Bears defense forced 54 turnovers in 14 regular season games and led the NFL in 10 of 19 categories in 1963. Five of the six Bears named to the All-Pro team were defensive players: Petitbon, Doug Atkins, Bill George, Joe Fortunato, and Rosey Taylor, who led the league with nine interceptions. They joined Ditka, who had 59 receptions and 8 TDs.

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Hall of Famer Musso dies

By Larry Mayer
Managing Editor

The Bears agreed to pay George Musso \$90 per game after signing the 6-2, 270-pounder from Millikin College in Decatur in 1933.

You could say it was money well spent.

Musso was an integral part of four NFL championship teams with the Bears including the famous 73-0 rout of the Washington Redskins in 1940. Musso played 12 seasons with the Bears and was the first player in NFL history to earn all-league honors at two positions—tackle in 1935 and guard in '37. He was inducted into the Pro Football Hall of Fame in 1982.

Musso died last Tuesday morning in an Edwardsville, Ill. nursing home at the age of 90.

"He was a big guy and tough," said former teammate Ed Sprinkle, who was a rookie in Musso's final season of 1944. "I was a 20-year-old kid and I thought he was one of the coaches. It surprised me to see him suiting up and working out. He wasn't the fastest guard, but he didn't have to be."

"Even the last year he played he was a force on the line. He was quick off the blocks and a good pass protector. He did the job."

Musso starred in football, basketball, baseball and track at Millikin, where he was discovered by Bears founder George Halas. Halas sent Musso \$5 to come try out with the Bears.

"The round-trip train ticket on the Wabash was \$3," Musso once said. "That left \$2 for me to really do the town."

Musso played against two future presidents—Ronald Reagan at Eureka College and Gerald Ford of Michigan when Ford was a member of the College All-Star team that faced the Bears.

Musso was elected captain in his fourth season and kept the title the rest of his career. In all, Musso played in seven NFL championship games. The most memorable was the 1940 clash with the Redskins. A few weeks earlier, the Bears had lost to the same Washington squad 7-3.

"We wanted revenge and we got it," Musso said.

About a year ago when Redskins quarterback Sammy Baugh said that his team had laid down in the game as a protest against team owner George Preston Marshall, Musso said: "It took him 60 years to figure it out, huh? Now he says that? It doesn't make any sense. We were just better that day. It's a lot of baloney. We just outplayed them, that was all. We had seven Hall of Famers on that club. There was good reason for us to win."

In retirement, Musso served as Madison County (Ill.) sheriff for eight years and county treasurer for 12 years.

"He was big, powerful and very aggressive," said Irv Kupcinet of the Chicago Sun-Times, a sportswriter when Musso played. "He was a very gracious gentleman—a wonderful guy and a great football player and a credit to the game."

Musso also owned a restaurant in Edwardsville. Sprinkle used to stop and visit his former teammate on trips back home to Texas.

"Every time I saw him he'd say, 'When are you going to get elected to the Hall of Fame? You should have been a long time ago,'" Sprinkle said. "It seemed like back then the players had a special camaraderie."

Allen enjoying expanded role

Dick Jauron wouldn't say that James Allen has replaced Curtis Enis as the Bears' feature back. But the fact that the two players seem to be sharing the job is good news for Allen.

Allen rushed for 163 yards in his first NFL start against the Baltimore Ravens in 1998 but has otherwise been a backup and special teams player since signing with the Bears late in the 1997 season.

"It's a nice feeling, just getting a chance," said Allen, who rushed for 60 yards while receiving more than twice as many carries as Enis (9-4) in the



James Allen
Having a ball

season opener at Minnesota.

"Chances like this hardly ever come in life. Any other pressures added on to this would probably ruin it. So I've got to live for the moment, enjoy the moment, and play hard and do what I love to do, and that's running the ball and playing football on Sunday."

Allen remains listed No. 2 on the depth chart, but he's not getting caught up in titles.

"I'm just having fun," he said. "There's no pressure. I'm not asking for the ball or (demanding) I want to start. I'm just trying to play within the flow of the game. You can get caught up in the fact that you're not getting the ball or you're not starting. Those are minor things when you want to win."

"My thing is just to be sharp and focused. If I go out there frustrated about something, before I know it the game is over with and I'm just mad. That's not healthy for me, and that's not a way to carry myself, so I'm never frustrated."

— Larry Mayer



Hall of Famer George Musso played in seven NFL championship games in 12 seasons with the Bears.

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Engram

From Back Page

Engram showed last season the ability to work well with all three Bears quarterbacks. In Jim Miller's second start, Engram had 8 catches for 121 yards. When Cade McNown returned to the starting lineup in Game 14, Engram caught 10 passes for 94 yards and a TD. The following week, when Shane Matthews took over after McNown was sidelined with a strained right side, Engram caught 13 passes for 143 yards and 2 TDs.

Even though he's only 27, Engram is the oldest of the Bears' seven wide receivers. Kennison is only 13 days younger than Engram, but White just turned 21 last week, Bates and Booker are 24, and Robinson and Brooks are 25.

It's a diverse group, and deep enough that seven made the final roster, one more than last season and one more than most other teams keep.

"I don't think you can keep three receivers happy let alone seven," Engram said, laugh-

ing. "But everybody has different strengths and weaknesses and different talents. The bottom line is if you can play, if you're making plays in this offense, you'll get your shots."

"It's a competitive group, and we have a lot of fun and a lot of camaraderie, but also guys go out there and they want to make plays. When the film turns on they want to say, 'Look at me making that great play.' I think it's a good thing. We haven't had this type of competition around here in a long time."

As talented as the group is, every member can all learn from Engram's work ethic and attention to detail.

"For me, it's just a part of being mature, being a leader on this team and knowing that guys are counting on me," Engram said. "I can't afford to get sloppy. If (offensive tackle) Big Cat (Williams) gets sloppy and misses a block, he's going to get the quarterback hurt. We can't afford to get sloppy. I care about my teammates too much to let them down."

Bob LeGere covers the Bears for the Daily Herald.



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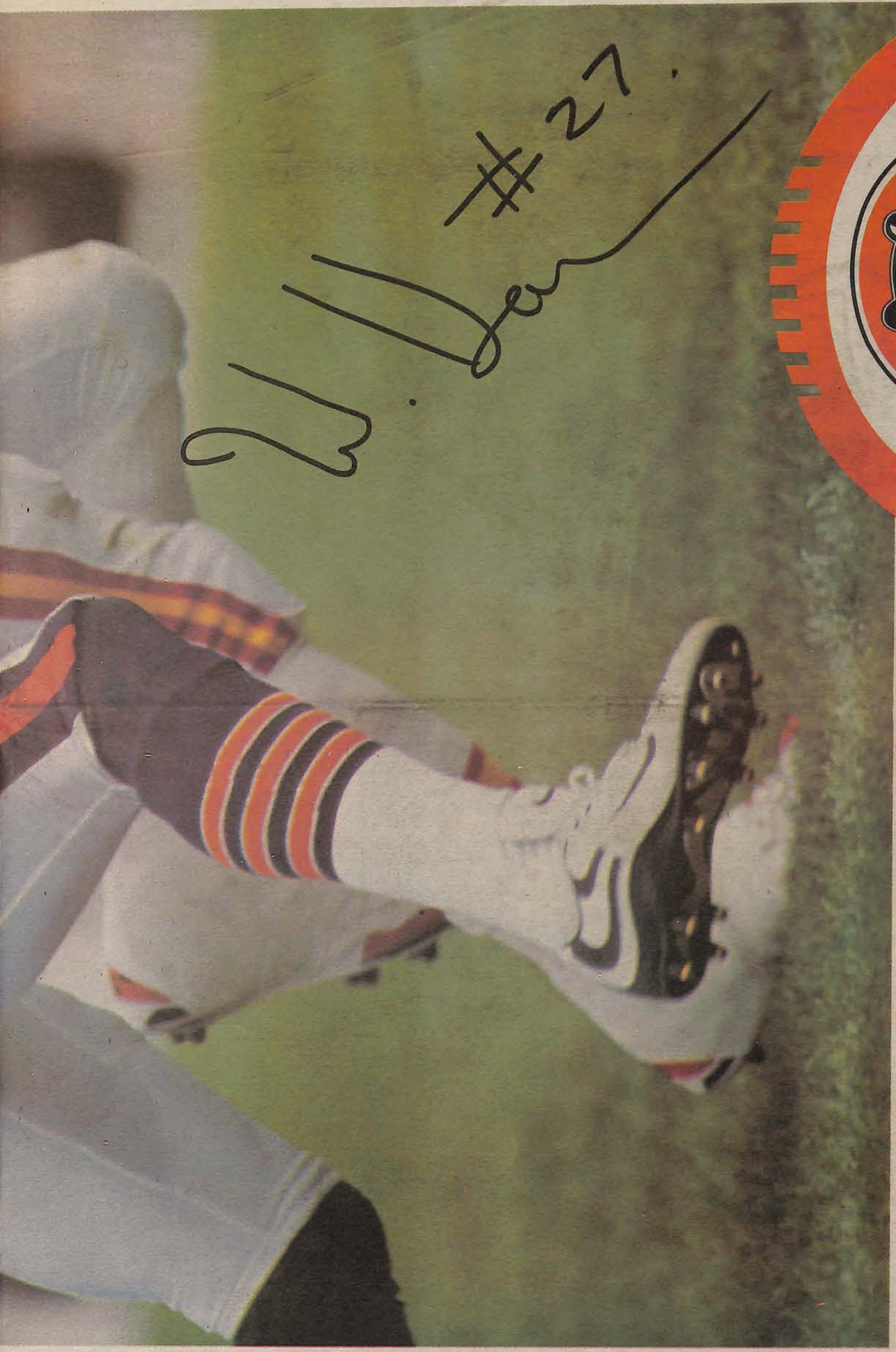
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Walt Harris

GAME STORY

Lopsided loss shows Bears still far away

By Larry Mayer
Managing Editor

All the talk about how the Bears had closed the huge gap in the NFC Central and were ready to contend for the playoffs this season was just that—talk. Remember, Chicago is not called the Windy City for nothing.

At least that's how it seemed Sunday in sweltering Tampa, where the Bears were dominated on both sides of the ball in a 41-0 rout. Chicago has now lost six straight to the once-feeble Buccaneers and hasn't scored a touchdown against Tampa Bay in 14 quarters. The Bears managed just three field goals in two losses to the Buccaneers last season.

"We had a lot of things go wrong," said Bears quarterback Cade McNown. "What can you say? It's a tough one to swallow."

Tough indeed. It was the Bears' worst loss since a 41-0 massacre in a Monday night game at San Francisco on Dec. 14, 1987. It was also Chicago's first shutout since the 1989 season finale, snapping the second longest streak in the NFL. Most importantly, it dropped the Bears (0-2) two games behind the Buccaneers, Lions and Vikings in the division standings.

"I know the sick feeling that comes after a loss and losing a game like this that was so one-sided is very disappointing," said Bears coach Dick Jauron. "But the only consolation is this is just one loss and the season is a marathon, not a sprint. We will have to see where we are going. We have a lot of young players and if we are going to be a good team, they are going to have to step up and play."

Things looked promising early when the Bears held the Buccaneers without a first down on their first two possessions. But Tampa Bay converted four Chicago turnovers into 17 points in racing to a 20-0 halftime lead. The



Buccaneers then turned the game into a rout by scoring two touchdowns in :54 midway through the third quarter.

On the Bears' second possession of the game, McNown fumbled when he was sacked by blitzing cornerback Ronde Barber, and linebacker Shelton Quarles recovered at the Bears' 45-yard line. Chicago's defense held, however, and Martin Gramatica pushed a 50-yard field goal attempt wide right with 4:02 left in the first quarter.

That was the end of the good news for the Bears. McNown's screen pass intended for Marcus Robinson was deflected by defensive tackle Warren Sapp and intercepted by cornerback Donnie Abraham. After seven straight running plays, Gramatica's 23-yard field goal gave Tampa Bay a 3-0 lead with 10:28 left in the second quarter.

After Gramatica's 49-yarder made it 6-0, McNown's well-thrown swing pass deflected off the hands of running back James Allen and was intercepted again by Abraham. He returned it 18 yards to the Bears' 4-yard line, setting up quarterback Shaun King's 3-yard TD scamper that put Tampa Bay ahead 13-0 with 1:54 left in the half.

Disaster struck two plays later when Bears rookie wide receiver Dez White caught a 6-yard pass but fumbled as he was twisted to the

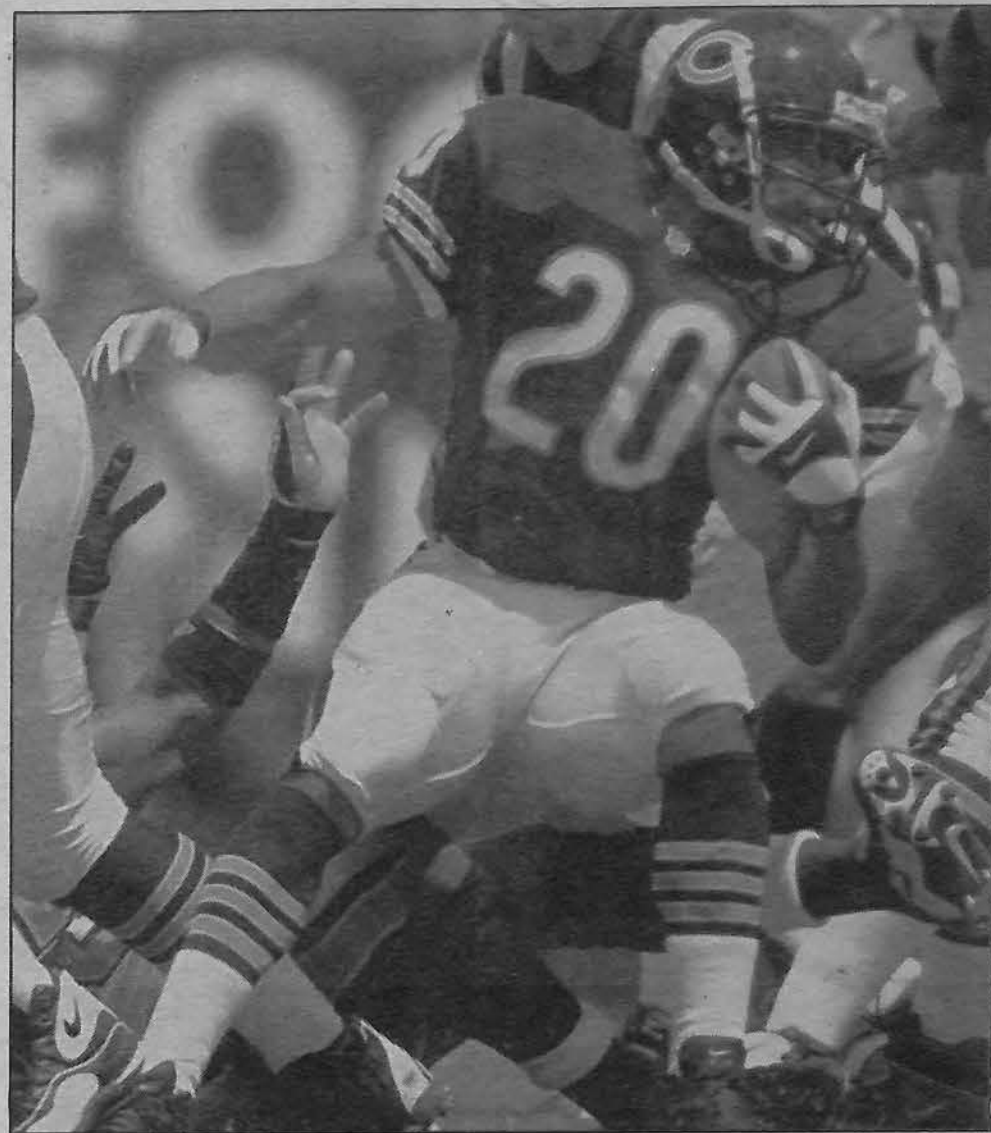


Photo by William Garrow

James Allen rushed for 47 yards on 6 carries in Sunday's 41-0 loss at Tampa. It was the Bears' worst loss since a 41-0 defeat in San Francisco in 1987.

ground by Abraham. Barber scooped up the loose ball and dashed 24 yards for a TD to make it 20-0.

Tampa Bay's three first half scoring drives were just 25, 29 and 4 yards, but the turnovers spelled doom for the Bears.

"It was obvious the game got away from us in the last three minutes of the first half," Jauron said. "Nothing went right and that's our fault. Bad things did happen and it wasn't a pretty game. It's definitely disappointing, but I am not discouraged because I believe in these guys."

Things went from bad to worse on the Buccaneers' first possession of the third quarter when King capped a 9-play, 90-yard drive with a 13-yard TD pass to Keyshawn Johnson. Johnson beat Bears cornerback Thomas Smith, who never turned around to play the ball.

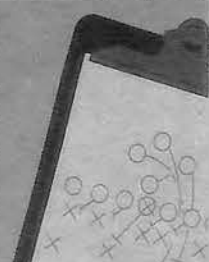
After the Bears went three and out, the Chicago defense trudged back on the field and permitted a 58-yard TD pass from King to Jacques Green on the next play. Joliet native Mike Alstott capped the scoring by bulldozing over five tacklers for a 20-yard TD run early in the fourth quarter.

"I thought we could come down here and beat them," said Jauron, "but by the middle of the third quarter it kept looking worse and worse. But that was the nature of the game for us."

The Bears' best chance to dent the scoreboard went awry when rookie Paul Edinger missed a 42-yard field goal attempt wide right with 6:26 left in the game.

PLAY OF THE GAME

Tampa Bay's Ronde Barber returned a Dez White fumble 24 yards to give the Bucs a 20-0 lead late in the first half. Tampa Bay tacked on three more TDs.



The Bears were limited to 165 total yards, 71 of which came in the fourth quarter when most of the Buccaneers were busy making dinner reservations. The Bears never penetrated deeper than the Tampa Bay 24-yard line and were just 1 of 11 (9 percent) on third downs.

It got so bad for the Bears on Sunday that they were penalized for delay of game after a timeout on the first play of the second quarter.

"Tampa Bay is a very good football team," said Bears center Olin Kreutz. "But if we want to be where we need to be, we can't lose like that. We were never in this game. That was embarrassing."

It was a sentiment shared by his teammates.

"It was terrible," said dejected defensive tackle Mike Wells. "It's not fun to do what we did. We couldn't get things going, we didn't create turnovers. We didn't do any of the things we talked about as a defense. Little things snowballed into big things and major things and a catastrophe. It was just horrendous. That's what hell's gotta be like, that second half."

2000 NFL STANDINGS

NATIONAL CONFERENCE

Eastern Division

	W	L	T	Pct.	PF	PA
N.Y. Giants	2	0	0	1.000	54	34
Arizona	1	1	0	.500	48	52
Philadelphia	1	1	0	.500	59	47
Washington	1	1	0	.500	30	32
Dallas	0	2	0	.000	45	73

Central Division

Detroit	2	0	0	1.000	29	20
Minnesota	2	0	0	1.000	43	34
Tampa Bay	2	0	0	1.000	62	16
BEARS	0	2	0	.000	27	71
Green Bay	0	2	0	.000	34	47

Western Division

St. Louis	2	0	0	1.000	78	70
Atlanta	1	1	0	.500	50	70
Carolina	1	1	0	.500	55	36
New Orleans	1	1	0	.500	38	41
San Francisco	0	2	0	.000	50	74

AMERICAN CONFERENCE

Eastern Division

	W	L	T	Pct.	PF	PA
Buffalo	2	0	0	1.000	43	31
N.Y. Jets	1	0	0	1.000	20	16
Indianapolis	1	1	0	.500	58	52
Miami	1	1	0	.500	30	13
New England	0	1	0	.000	16	21

Central Division

Baltimore	2	0	0	1.000	55	36
Cleveland	1	1	0	.500	31	34
Jacksonville	1	1	0	.500	63	48
Tennessee	1	1	0	.500	30	30
Cincinnati	0	1	0	.000	7	24
Pittsburgh	0	1	0	.000	0	16

Western Division

Oakland	2	0	0	1.000	47	37
Denver	1	1	0	.500	78	55
Kansas City	0	2	0	.000	28	44
San Diego	0	2	0	.000	33	37
Seattle	0	2	0	.000	34	60



INSIDE THE BEARS

Tampa Bay defense shuts down McNown

The Tampa Bay Buccaneers feared Cade McNown more as a runner than a passer, but they shut down both aspects of his game in Sunday's 41-0 rout.

McNown led the Bears in rushing for the second straight game, gaining 49 yards on five carries. But 30 of those yards came on a scramble midway through the fourth quarter with the Bears already down by 41 points.

"We knew our quickness would get to him," said Buccaneers defensive tackle Warren Sapp. "We knew he would never beat us with his arm. It was fun today."

One week after rushing for 87 yards and passing for 290 yards and 2 TDs with no interceptions in a season-opening loss at Minnesota, McNown completed 15 of 29 for just 96 yards with two interceptions against the Buccaneers. He also lost one fumble and was sacked five times for 47 yards in losses.

"They game-planned us real well," McNown said. "They were at the right spot at the right time on a lot of plays. It is tough to face a team like that if you are unsure at all. They are 100 percent sure of what they are doing. It's a feast or famine defense and they ate a lot today."

In last season's game at Tampa Bay, McNown was benched late in the third quarter after completing 9 of 23 passes for 82 yards with one interception. On Sunday, he was picked off twice by cornerback Donnie Abraham.

—Larry Mayer



Cade McNown

A rout for the books

Lopsided defeat the Bears' worst in 13 seasons

By Larry Mayer
Managing Editor

There's no shame in losing to the defending division champions in their home stadium. But it's another story when the defeat is so one-sided it forces reporters to flip feverishly through the media guide to measure the carnage against past disasters.

Sunday's 41-0 loss at Tampa Bay was the Bears' worst defeat in 13 years and the club's first shutout in 11 years. Even the forgettable Dave Wannstedt, who suffered through some miserable blowouts as Bears coach from 1993-98, never lost by 41 points. The closest he came was a 40-3 defeat at Green Bay on Dec. 11, 1994.

There have only been six more lopsided losses in Bears history: 52-0 at Baltimore in 1964, 49-0 at Green Bay in 1962, 47-0 at Houston in 1977, and 42-0 at Cleveland in 1960, at Detroit in 1968 and at Washington in 1974.

The big question facing the Bears is whether they will rebound from the rout. Of the 16 previous times the Bears have started a season 0-2, they've bounced back to have a winning campaign on five occasions but have never made the playoffs.

"We definitely know we're better than this," said Bears cornerback Thomas Smith, who permitted a 13-yard TD catch by Keyshawn Johnson and also drew two pass interference penalties. "Everybody's got to look inside themselves and look deep. We've got the talent. We're missing some little intangible."



GAME NOTES

Losing ground: Maybe it's a running game the Bears are missing. Their running backs rushed for just 67 yards on 16 carries in Sunday's loss. While James Allen gained 47 yards on six attempts for a 7.8-yard average, Curtis Enis managed just 20 yards on 11 carries, a 1.8-yard average. Enis gained 16 yards on his first two rushes, then four yards on nine carries. In two games this season, Enis has just 31 yards on 15 attempts.

"We ran the ball effectively early," Enis said. "I thought we ran on them well. I've always thought we could run on Tampa Bay."

Bucs reserve tailback Aaron Stecker, who the Bears cut in 1999 when they kept Edgar Bennett, rushed for 26 yards on five carries in mop-up duty. Stecker was named Offensive MVP of NFL Europe this spring.

Seeing double: The Bears will probably do a few double-takes next week when they face New York Giants running back Tiki Barber. Tiki's twin brother is Ronde Barber, Tampa Bay's cornerback who returned a fumble for a TD, forced a fumble and had 2.5 sacks in Sunday's game.

"The last time Tiki and I both scored on the same day was in junior high," Ronde said.

Emotional reunion: Bears defensive tackle Brad Culpepper had an unhappy homecom-

ing at Raymond James Stadium. Culpepper played six seasons with Tampa Bay before being cut late last month.

"It's tough to come back when you're getting beat 41-0," he said. "It was emotional coming onto the field, but I was ready to play football. But it's not that big of a deal. I've been playing in Florida my whole life. The Bucs capitalized on turnovers and got good field position."

Culpepper registered 23.5 sacks the past three seasons for Tampa Bay playing alongside Warren Sapp.

"I know it wasn't good for Brad," Sapp said. "He looked across the field and saw people he loved. This is where he thought he was going to raise his family. He will be fine—he's a tough competitor."

News & notes: Glyn Milburn returned seven kickoffs for the second straight week. At his current pace he will break his own team record set in 1998 in the ninth game of the season. ... Shaun King's 3-yard TD dash was the fourth scoring run by a quarterback against the Bears this season. They gave up only three all of last season. ... Phillip Daniels registered his second sack in as many games. Defensive back Frankie Smith was credited with the Bears' only other sack. ... Smith (sprained right ankle) left the game and did not return. LB Roosevelt Colvin was carted off the field with a possibly serious knee injury that was initially reported as a sprain. WR Marty Booker sprained his shoulder on special teams. ... In the last two games against the Buccaneers, the Bears are an anemic 1 of 23 (4 percent) on third downs. ... The last time the Bears scored a touchdown against Tampa Bay was in 1998 when punter Mike Horan and quarterback Moses Moreno threw touchdown passes in a 31-17 loss.

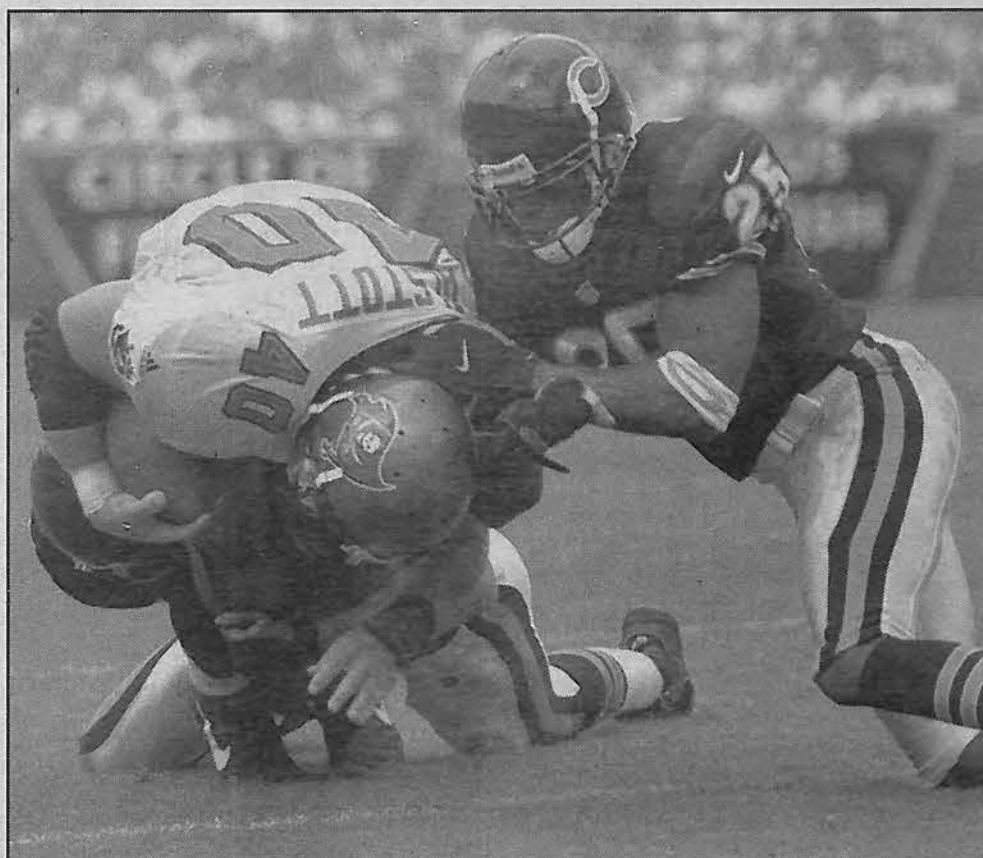


Photo by William Garrow

Brian Urlacher and Thomas (25) team up to bring down Bucs running back Mike Alstott Sunday in Tampa. Alstott's 20-yard TD run capped the scoring.

Bears 2000 Schedule

PRESEASON			
Date	Opponent	Bears	Opponent
Sat., Aug. 5	at N.Y. Giants	20	8
Sat., Aug. 12	CLEVELAND BROWNS	19	6
Sat., Aug. 19	at Cincinnati Bengals	20	24
Fri., Aug. 25	TENNESSEE TITANS	28	34
REGULAR SEASON			
Sun., Sept. 3	at Minnesota Vikings	27	30
Sun., Sept. 10	at Tampa Bay Buccaneers	0	41
Sun., Sept. 17	NEW YORK GIANTS	3:15 p.m.	FOX
Sun., Sept. 24	DETROIT LIONS	Noon	FOX
Sun., Oct. 1	at Green Bay Packers	3:15 p.m.	FOX
Sun., Oct. 8	NEW ORLEANS SAINTS	Noon	FOX
Sun., Oct. 15	MINNESOTA VIKINGS	7:20 p.m.	ESPN
Sun., Oct. 22	at Philadelphia Eagles	Noon	FOX
Sun., Oct. 29	Bye		
Sun., Nov. 5	INDIANAPOLIS COLTS	Noon	CBS
Sun., Nov. 12	at Buffalo Bills	Noon	FOX
Sun., Nov. 19	TAMPA BAY BUCCANEERS	Noon	FOX
Sun., Nov. 26	at N.Y. Jets	Noon	FOX
Sun., Dec. 3	GREEN BAY PACKERS	7:20 p.m.	ESPN
Sun., Dec. 10	NEW ENGLAND PATRIOTS	Noon	CBS
Sun., Dec. 17	at San Francisco 49ers	3:05 p.m.	FOX
Sun., Dec. 24	at Detroit Lions	Noon	FOX
*Central time			

SCORING SUMMARY

Chicago Bears.....	0	0	0	0	0
Tampa Bay Buccaneers.....	0	20	14	7	41
Bucs, 2, 10:28, Gramatica 23-yard field goal (8-25, 4:25) 0-3					
Bucs, 2, 2:46, Gramatica 47-yard field goal (10-29, 5:55) 0-6					
Bucs, 2, 1:54, King 3-yard run (Gramatica kick) (3-4, 0:26) 0-13					
Bucs, 2, 1:17, Barber 24-yard fumble return (Gramatica kick) 0-20					
Bucs, 3, 8:27, Johnson 13-yard pass from King (Gramatica kick) (9-90, 4:19) 0-27					
Bucs, 3, 7:33, Green 58-yard pass from King (Gramatica kick) (1-58, 0:13) 0-34					
Bucs, 4, 10:16, Alstott 20-yard run (Gramatica kick) (9-65, 5:19) 0-41					
Paid attendance: 65,569; time: 3:00					

FINAL TEAM STATISTICS

	Bears	Bucs
TOTAL FIRST DOWNS	9	21
By Rushing	4	11
By Passing	5	7
By Penalty	0	3
THIRD DOWN EFFICIENCY	1-11-9%	5-13-38%
FOURTH DOWN EFFICIENCY	1-1-100%	0-0-0%
TOTAL NET YARDS	165	327
Total Offensive Plays (inc. time thrown passing)	56	62
Average gain per offensive play	2.9	5.3
NET YARDS RUSHING	116	156
Total Rushing Plays	22	36
Average gain per rushing play	5.3	4.3
Tackles for a loss - number and yards	2-4	3-5
NET YARDS PASSING	49	171
Times thrown — yards lost attempting to pass	5-47	2-15
Gross yards passing	96	186
PASS ATTEMPTS-COMPLETIONS-HAD INT.	29-15-2	24-13-0
Average gain per pass play (inc. # thrown passing)	1.4	6.6
KICKOFFS-In End Zone-Touchbacks	1-1-0	8-5-1
PUNTS Number and Average	7-38.4	5-44.2
Had Blocked	0	0
FGs-PATs Had Blocked	0-0	0-0
Net punting average	36	31.6
TOTAL RETURN YARDAGE (Not Including Kickoffs)	23	36
No. and Yards Punt Returns	3-23	4-17
No. and Yards Kickoff Returns	7-166	1-31
No. and Yards Interception Returns	0-0	2-19
PENALTIES Number and Yards	9-64	3-20
FUMBLES Number and Lost	3-2	0-0
TOUCHDOWNS	0	5
Rushing	0	2
Passing	0	2
Fumbles	0	1
EXTRA POINTS Made-Attempts	0-0	5-5
FIELD GOALS Made-Attempts	0-1	2-3
SAFETIES	0	0
FINAL SCORE	0	41
TIME OF POSSESSION	26:24	33:36

CHICAGO BEARS

RUSHING	Att.	Net Yds.	Avg.	Long Gain	TD
McNown	5	49	9.8	30	0
Allen	6	47	7.8	18	0
Enis	11	20	1.8	9	0

PASSING	Att.	Cmp.	Yds.	TKD/Yd.	TD	LG	Had Int.
McNown	29	15	96	5/47	0	14	2

PASS RECEIVING	No.	Yds.	Avg.	LG	TD
Engram	4	10	2.5	6	0
Allen	3	14	4.7	8	0
Robinson	2	25	12.5	14	0
Brooks	2	19	9.5	12	0
White	2	15	7.5	9	0
Mayes	1	8	8.0	8	0
Kennison	1	5	5.0	5	0

INTERCEPTIONS	No.	Yds.	LG	TD
None				

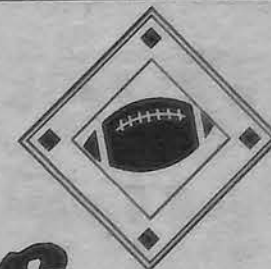
PUNTING	No.	Yds.	Avg.	TB	In 20	LG
Bartholomew	7	269	38.4	0	2	42

PUNT RETURNS	No.	FC	Yds.	LG	TD
Milburn	3	0	23	19	0

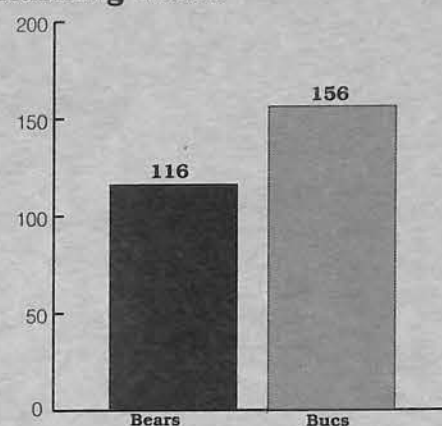
KICKOFF RETURNS	No.	FC	Yds.	LG	TD
Milburn	7	0	166	33	0



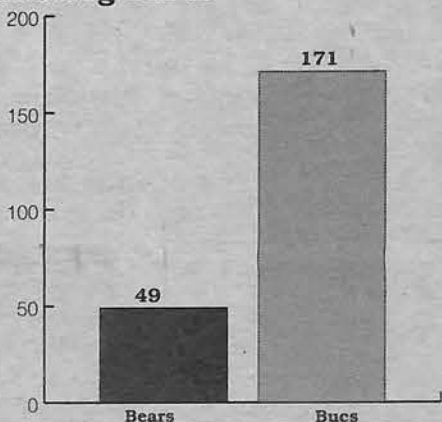
GAME STATISTICS



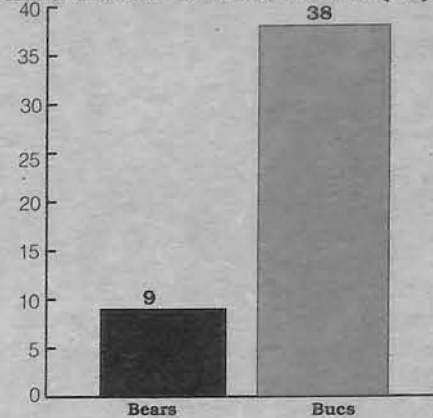
Rushing Yards



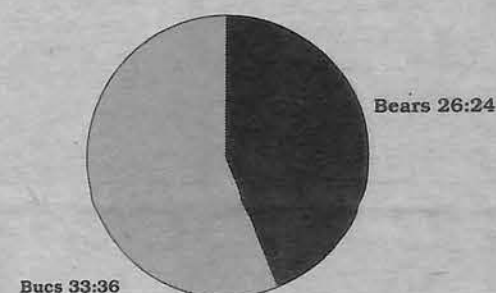
Passing Yards



Third Down Conversions (%)



Time of Possession



TAMPA BAY

RUSHING	Att.	Net Yds.	Avg.	Long Gain	TD
Alstott	15	71	4.7	20	1
Dunn	14	53	3.8	13	0
Stecker	5	26	5.2	14	0
King	2	6	3.0	3	1

PASSING	Att.	Cmp.	Yds.	TKD/Yd.	TD	LG	Had Int.
King	21	10	167	2/15	2	58	0
Zeier	3	3	19	0/0	0	14	0

PASS RECEIVING	No.	Yds.	Avg.	LG	TD
Green	5	104	20.8	58	1
Johnson	2	32	16.0	19	1
Dunn	2	5	2.5	4	0
Williams	1	27	27.0	27	0
Hape	1	13	13.0	13	0
Alstott	1	4	4.0	4	0
Yoder	1	1	1.0	1	0

INTERCEPTIONS	No.	Yds.	LG	TD
Abraham	2	19	18	0

PUNTING	No.	Yds.	Avg.	TB	In 20	LG
Royals	5	221	44.2	2	0	51

PUNT RETURNS	No.	FC	Yds.	LG	TD
Williams	4	2	17	16	0

KICKOFF RETURNS	No.	FC	Yds.	LG	TD
Stecker	1	0	31	31	0

CHICAGO BEARS

Unofficial	T	Ast.	Sack	Yrds.	Int.	PD	FF	FR
Parrish	3	5	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	0
Daniels	6	0	1.0	4.0	0	0	0	0

Minter	4	2	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	0
Smith	4	1	0.0	0.0	0	1	0	0
Wooden	4	0	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	0
Urlacher	3	1	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	0
Brown	2	2	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	0
W. Harris	2	1	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	0
Wells	1	2	0.0	0.0	0	1	0	0
Colvin	2	0	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	0
Harris	2	0	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	0
Robinson	2	0	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	0
Wilson	2	0	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	0
Flanigan	1	1	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	0
Holdman	1	1	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	0
Simmons	1	1	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	0
Culpepper	1	0	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	0
Smith	1	0	1.0	11.0	0	0	0	0

TAMPA BAY

Unofficial

	T	Ast.	Sack	Yrds.	Int.	PD	FF	FR
Brooks	9	2	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	0
Barber	4	1	2.5	25.5	0	0	1	1
Robinson	3	2	0.0	0.0	0	1	0	0
Abraham	3	0	0.0	0.0	2	3	1	0
Duncan	3	0	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	0
Gooch	2	1	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	0
Quarles	2	1	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	1
Jackson	2	0	1.0	8.0	0	0	0	0
Kelly	2	0	0.0	0.0	0	2	0	0
Lynch	1	1	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	0
McFarland	1	1	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	0
Ahanotu	0	2	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	0
Gibson	1	0	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	0
Sapp	1	0	1.0	10.0	0	1	0	0
Singleton	1	0	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	0
Young	1	0	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	0
Cannida	0	1	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	0
Jones	0	1	0.5	3.5	0	0	0	0
White	0	1	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	0
Vance	0	0	0.0	0.0	0	1	0	0

One-sided defeat stirs bad memory

DOUG BUFFONE



Sunday's embarrassing loss reminded me of a similar experience I endured as a Bear in 1977. We lost to the Oilers at the Astrodome by the score of 47-0. Just like on Sunday, nothing went right and every little bad thing snowballed into something worse.

It was even worse for me. I had pneumonia and a 105-degree fever. I wasn't going to play, but we didn't have anyone else who could call the defense. I lasted a grand total of three plays before I passed out. They took me into the locker room, put me on an airplane, and had an ambulance waiting for me at O'Hare. They originally thought I had Legionnaire's disease,

but the pneumonia kept me hospitalized for three or four days.

The funny thing about that loss was that we followed it with six straight victories to end the season and we made the playoffs with an overtime win in the ice against the New York Giants. Hopefully the same thing will happen to the 2000 Bears.

In Sunday's game, you have to start with the four key turnovers. It's hard to beat a bad team when you give the ball away like that, and I'll tell you it's impossible to beat someone like Tampa Bay. The pressure the Bucs generated on Cade McNown was typical of Tampa Bay's defense. Then it seemed like he started hurrying his throws even when he wasn't under pressure, and the offense had no rhythm whatsoever.

The Bucs went to an array of cornerback blitzes when the Bears lined up with an empty backfield, which ensures one of the rushers won't be accounted for. If I was a defensive coordinator, that's what I would do against teams that didn't keep a back in to block. That forces the quarterback to make a quick decision and unload in a hurry.

I thought the Bears' defense played extremely well in the first half, but then they

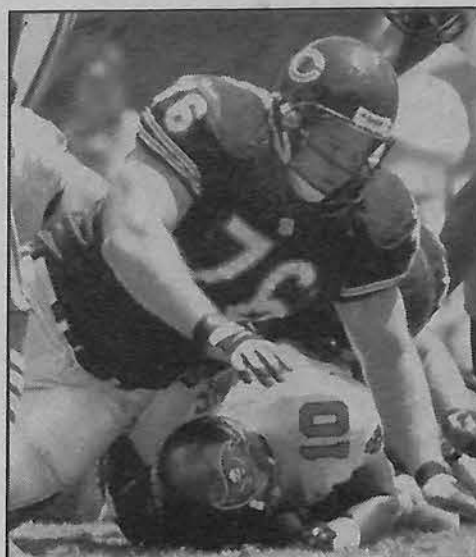


Photo by William Garrow

Former Buc Brad Culpepper greets ex-teammate Shaun King during the Bears' embarrassing loss Sunday at Raymond James Stadium.

started the second half by letting Tampa Bay drive 90 yards to a touchdown. By that time, they seemed to be simply worn out, especially with the Bears' offense going 1-2-3 and out, 1-2-3 and out. The Bears defense didn't come up with any turnovers and made no big plays. Their only turnover in two games is a Jerry Azumah interception that bounced off Cris Carter's hands a week earlier in Minnesota.

I don't think that Bucs quarterback Shaun King looked that great, but four turnovers will help no matter who's throwing passes. Plus

Trivia Trove



Who kicked the longest field goal in history against the Bears?

(Answer on page 23)

Mike Alstott finished the Bears off with that bruising long touchdown run.

I didn't expect the Bears to beat the Buccaneers. This is a team that held the St. Louis Rams to one touchdown in last season's NFC title game, and if they can do that to the Rams they certainly can do that to the Bears. But I didn't think the gap between the Bears and Bucs was so wide, but I obviously was wrong.

What this loss does is generate an unbelievable amount of urgency for Sunday's home opener against the Giants. The Bears have to find a way to win because they don't want to go 0-3, that's for sure. That's where they are right now.

I threw a book at the TV Sunday in the third quarter when Fox switched to James Brown and he said, "We're now going to take viewers to a more competitive game." They noticed it and I noticed it—the Bears put up the white flag. And to me, that was totally embarrassing. The turnovers were the killer, and once that ball started rolling, the Bears couldn't stop it.

Doug Buffone hosts the Doug Buffone Sports Magazine Sunday mornings on Fox Sports Chicago.

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Warrior for the ages

Payton was valiant in life, death

JAY MARIOTTI



On his deathbed, Walter Payton shunned all self-pity. He was that kind of man, wasn't he? The sweetest of icons had reasons to be bitter, beginning with the liver that failed him and the cancer that ravaged him, then extending to frustrations in his post-football life that led to a deep depression he concealed from an adoring public.

Did anyone know how devastated Payton was not to become the NFL's first African-American owner, a distinction he said was promised him by former commissioner Pete Rozelle but evaporated during the reign of Paul Tagliabue? How many fans knew he was so unhappy after his playing days, he filed for

divorce in 1994 and regretted retiring when he did? And while he got over the snub of not scoring in Super Bowl XX, who realized how sour he was that the Bears won only one championship, falling into an ego-driven, endorsement-dizzy haze?

Yet in his final words, chronicled in his soon-to-be-released autobiography written with Don Yaeger, Payton thought only of mankind and how he contributed. "If all I'm remembered for is a bunch of yards and a lot of touchdowns, I've failed," he said. "That was just my work. I want to be remembered as a guy who raised two pretty special kids and who taught them to be great people. Please have them write that about me."

"All the honors are great, but personally, I would ask anyone who wants to pay tribute to me, for any reason, I would say there's one thing you can do above everything else: Never let a day go by where you neglect to tell your loved ones that you love them. ... Remember, tomorrow is promised to no one."

Through the endless eulogies to Payton, one voice has been missing: his. He fought his illness in private, communicating only with family members, close friends and former teammates such as Matt Suhey and Mike Singletary. In those final weeks, he invited

Yaeger, a nationally known investigative reporter, into the Payton home in South Barrington. There, the author watched an icon die and a family grieve as a crusty football town broke down and wept.

The book is called *Never Die Easy*. It is more a compilation of interviews than a weaved story, a format Yaeger was forced to use after Payton's condition turned grim last October. "The book Walter was writing had to change or never be finished," Yaeger said.

Thus, powerful revelations come unannounced. For all his wondrous accomplishments, Payton has a perfectionist's way of dwelling on what he didn't achieve. The reason he retired after the 1987 season, instead of playing two more seasons as he preferred, was a promise that he would be invited into NFL team ownership. But only two years later, after Rozelle departed office, Payton sensed he had been used. He wondered if he had been deceived by Bears management and his long-time agent, Bud Holmes.

"All of a sudden, I realized that all the promises I felt had been made to me—'Leave while you're on top, and we'll all help you'—suddenly the people who made those promises weren't there," Payton said. "I was told if I played two more years that I would miss the window of opportunity to become an owner. Some people questioned how a league that never had a black general manager at that time would allow a black owner. But I was assured that because of what I accomplished, if I left then, the gods would smile on me."

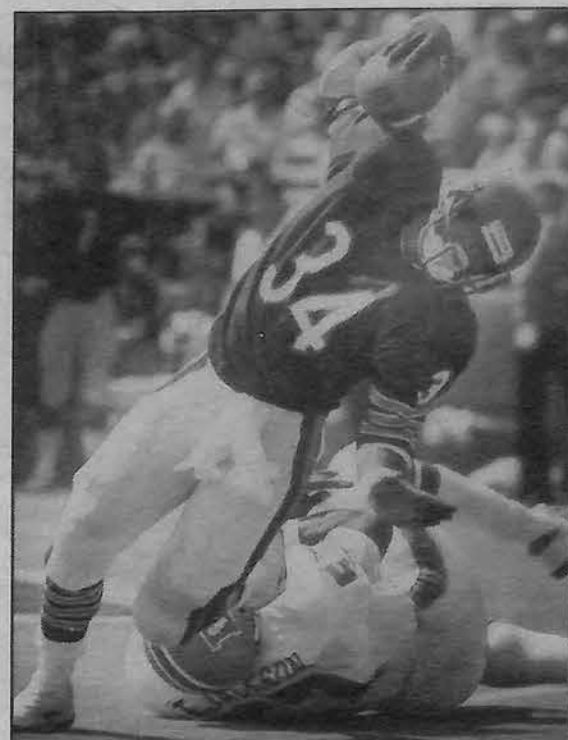
"Did Bud give me that advice because [former Bears executive] Jim Finks couldn't afford to keep me with the Bears anymore? I don't know, but I've certainly asked that question thousands of times in my head. ... Did I resent Bud ultimately for talking me into retirement? No question. We haven't talked in a long time, but I definitely have had a hard time forgetting the decisions I was asked to make."

Payton's involvement in a St. Louis franchise bid turned out to be a charade. "Just about the greatest loss in his life," Suhey said. "It crushed him." Some encouraged him to coach, but Payton instead raced cars and entered midrange business ventures, some of which resulted in lawsuits filed against his partners. He wanted to be an NFL owner. He failed. Payton couldn't stand to fail.

"It was the first thing to really go off track, that I didn't win at," Payton said. "And it was a very public loss."

That is when personal darkness set in. Ginny Quirk, his executive assistant, said Payton once mentioned suicide. "He sank into a really tough depression, which he hid from everyone but his family and a few other people," she said. "There were a lot of scary instances because I never dealt with someone who had been depressed to that degree and even talked about suicide. ... There were cars that were totaled, there were a lot of unpleasant things that went on during that time that was a sad time for Walter, just trying to find himself, and it was a long stint."

It took an insidious disease, Payton said, to



Walter Payton's soon-to-be-released autobiography is fittingly titled, 'Never Die Easy.'

ultimately appreciate his family life. Of his personal struggles, he said, "I felt myself being pulled into many directions. I was in a very confused state of mind. I was very unhappy and wasn't sure of myself or anyone else. I felt I needed some space. Connie allowed me to have the time I needed to clear my mind and my heart. With some time I decided that my wife and family were the most important people in my life."

Which explains what is especially tragic about his death. He became a joyful family man who, after previous reluctance, encouraged his son, Jarrett, to pursue a football career—as a running back, no less. Some stories are unforgettably poignant, such as his relationship with Suhey. To the end, the full-back was by Payton's side, never leaving without a kiss on the forehead. Months before his death, Payton made the inevitable comparison to "Brian's Song," the story of cancer-stricken Brian Piccolo and Gale Sayers that has eerie similarities. Typically, Payton turned it into gallows humor. "In that one," he said, "the white guy gets sick and dies. I wondered how come I couldn't have been in that movie." When Payton re-did his will, Suhey became the executor of his estate.

Only recently has Suhey talked about his friend. In the final days, Payton wanted his old blocking back to buy a Zagat restaurant guide. "It gets me kind of choked up," Suhey said. "[Payton] said, 'You know, I haven't eaten in that many restaurants in Chicago.' The goal was to hit two a night or something like that. You work, you bust your ass, you're running around, and you don't enjoy some of the things life has to offer. Walter wanted to do that before he died and never got to."

Payton was the ultimate battler. "Never die easy" was a slogan from his college days. "I wasn't the biggest," he said. "I wasn't the strongest or fastest. I do think I was the smartest. I was the runner who wouldn't go down easy."

The man didn't, either.

Jay Mariotti is a columnist for the Chicago Sun-Times.

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HOME GAMES

Name: Mike Brown

Position: Free safety

Height, weight: 5-10, 202

College: Nebraska

Season with Bears: 1st

Season in NFL: 1st

Acquired: 2000 second-round pick

Marital status: Single

Birthdate: July 31, 1976

Did you know: Just third player in Nebraska history to lead school in tackles three straight years ... Second-leading tackler in Nebraska history ... At Saguaro High in Scottsdale, AZ, was named state's top running back and defensive back by Arizona Republic. ... Also earned all-state honors after batting .426 with 27 stolen bases for high school baseball team.

Hobbies: I really just like hanging out. I don't really do too much, just go to some movies. That's about it. And relax. When you have a little bit of time to do something, you just want to relax a little bit.

Last good book I read: The Standout by Sandra Brown.

Favorite food: Fruity Pebbles.

Worst movie I've ever seen: Battlefield Earth with John Travolta. It was terrible. It just didn't make any sense.

Favorite athletes: Michael Jordan, Deion Sanders.

If I was NFL commissioner, the one rule I would change: Pass interference. You could put your hands on receivers any time down the field.

Actor who should portray me in my life story: LL Cool J.

In my next life, I'd like to be reincarnated as: A musician. I've always had a lot of respect for musicians. Just to be able to play an instrument very well would be a cool thing.

Strangest place I've ever been asked to sign an autograph: In the men's room.

One word that best describes me: Intensity.



Second-round draft pick Mike Brown of Nebraska was the only rookie to start the 2000 regular-season opener for the Bears.

"THAT WAS A @ \$ # % & ! # CALL."

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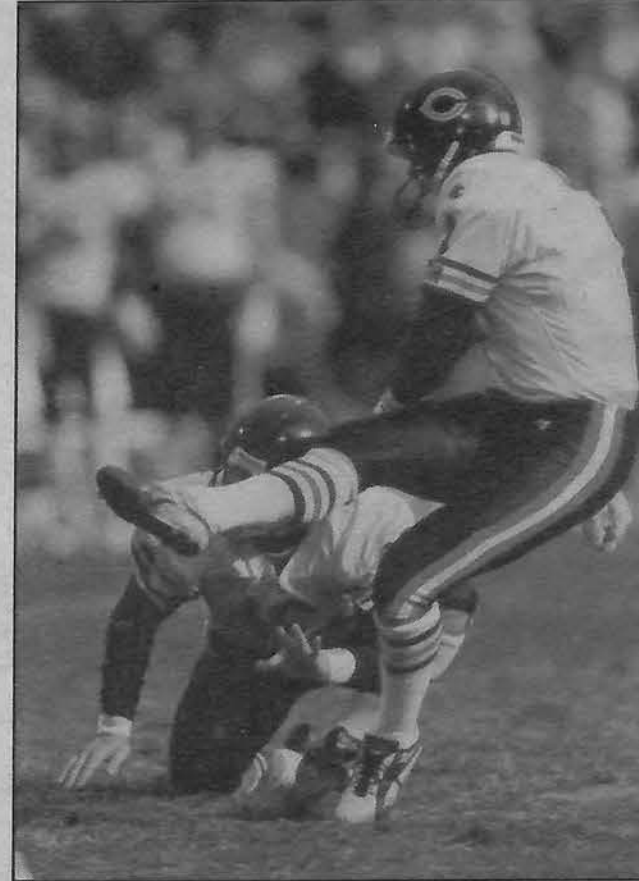
Statistically Speaking



Bob Thomas, 1975-84: 62.4 percent



Kevin Butler, 1985-95: 72.9 percent



Jeff Jaeger, 1996-99: 75.9 percent

Accuracy on the rise for kickers

In *Statistically Speaking*, Bear Report's numbers guru, Dr. Z, takes a strong position on a particular issue relevant to the Bears and/or the NFL and utilizes statistics to provide evidence for his position.

By Adam Zuckerman
Special to Bear Report

In sports like track and field, you can measure performance against an absolute, like a clock or a tape measure.

But in the team sport of football, it's difficult to gauge how much performance has changed over time. Although players have clearly gotten bigger and stronger, the quality of their play is always measured against a relative standard, i.e., the best other players at the time. For this reason, it is hard to compare players and their performance across eras.

But there is one exception — the kicking game. There's really only three things in a kicker's universe: the goal-posts, the ball, and his foot, and these three things have changed remarkably little in the past several decades, allowing us to compare then and now.

With all the kicking troubles the Bears had in 1999, it might be helpful to get a little historical perspective on this increasingly important part of the game. So, let's take a look at the numbers:

First, the biggest and the best: The record for the longest field goal is 63 yards, achieved by both Tom Dempsey in 1970 and Jason Elam in 1998. The player with the highest career field

goal percentage (of those who made at least 100) is John Carney, who averaged 81.67 percent from 1988-1999. The highest percentage in a single season (with a minimum of 17 made) is 100 percent, achieved by both Tony Zendejas in 1991 and Gary Anderson in 1998. The most field goals made in a career is 439, by Gary Anderson (1982-99), and the record for the most field goals made in a season was set just last year by Olindo Mare with 39. And finally, the record for most field goals in a single game is seven. This has been achieved three times, the last of which occurred in 1996 by, of all people, Chris Boniol.

How has kicking changed over time? In terms of length, it hasn't changed much. The average longest kick per season throughout the 1960s was 53 yards, and it has increased on average one yard each decade through the 1990s.

What has changed, rather dramatically, is accuracy. Let's take a look at the history of kicking for the Chicago Bears. Hall-of-Famer George Blanda, who played for the Bears from 1949-58, averaged 43.8 percent in field goals for the Bears. Although good for the time, today, that just doesn't measure up. In fact, what's interesting is how the percentages have steadily and markedly improved.

Roger Leclerc, who kicked for the Bears from 1960-66, averaged 51.4 percent. The main guy in the late '60s and early '70s was Mac Percival, and he is fourth on the Bears all-time list (among those with at least 25 attempts) with 54.4 percent. The main guy from the mid

'70s to the mid '80s, Bob Thomas, is third with 62.4 percent. The main guy from the mid '80s to the mid '90s, Kevin Butler, is second with 72.9. And, remarkably enough, the Bear with the best lifetime field goal percentage is Jeff Jaeger with 75.9 percent. (Before Jaeger went a dismal 2-8 in 1999, his lifetime average with the Bears was 81.3 percent.)

Importantly, the Bears are not alone in demonstrating this trend of increasing accuracy. In fact, if you look at the top lifetime field goal percentage leaders of those who have at least 100 attempts (through '98), there are only four in the top ten who played before 1990, and two of these four are really 1990s kickers: Pete Stoyanovich (1989-1998), and John Carney (1988-1998). Only Gary Anderson and Nick Lowery are in the top 10 and saw significant action in the '80s. Moving down the list, there's only three kickers whose percentages rank from 11-20 who played before 1990, and none who played before 1982.

Boniol, who was such a disaster for the Bears last year, actually ranked third all time in lifetime field-goal percentage, with an average of 80.69 percent. Again, this is through 1998, but even after last season, he will likely still rank in the top 20, as his lifetime average has only dropped to 78.5 percent.

What's even more interesting is that Boniol's drop-off in performance after coming to Chicago may be part of a larger trend. In addition to Boniol, Blanda, Butler, and Thomas all demonstrated better field goal accuracy when they were with teams other than the

Bears — proof that it really is tougher to kick in the Chicago cold and wind.

Last season the Bears ranked dead last in the league last year in field goal percentage.

Boniol, who saw the most action, was excellent from short yardage (20-29 yards), going 6 for 6, better than many other NFL kickers within at this range last year. Unfortunately as we all remember, he completely fell apart in the 30-39 yard range, going only 2 for 6 (33 percent). Just to give you an idea of how bad this is, the other four teams in the NFC Central collectively averaged 86 percent from this range.

Looking ahead to this season, there is plenty of reason to be optimistic about sixth round pick Paul Edinger. In fact, during his four years at Michigan State, Edinger hit 46 of 58 field goal attempts, for an accuracy rate of 79.3 percent. This rate is practically identical to first-rounder Sebastian Janikowski, who hit 66 of 83 (79.5 percent) during his three years at Florida State (although Janikowski appears to have a stronger leg, connecting on more longer attempts).

But ultimately, of course, it won't be past records or future expectations that count for the Bears, but instead just the posts, a ball, and a foot, and hopefully, three points.

Adam Zuckerman is a Ph.D. psychologist with extensive experience in empirical scientific research and quantitative analysis. He works full time as a management consultant and more than full time as a Chicago Bears' fanatic.

2000 Schedule

WEEK 1

(Open date: Cincinnati)

Sunday, Sept. 3

Minnesota 30, BEARS 27
N.Y. Giants 21, Arizona 16
Baltimore 16, Pittsburgh 0
Washington 20, Carolina 17
Detroit 14, New Orleans 10
Indianapolis 27, Kansas City 14
Jacksonville 27, Cleveland 7
Atlanta 36, San Francisco 28
Tampa Bay 21, New England 16
Philadelphia 41, Dallas 14
Oakland 9, San Diego 6
Miami 23, Seattle 0
N.Y. Jets 20, Green Bay 16
Buffalo 16, Tennessee 13

Monday, Sept. 4

St. Louis 41, Denver 36

WEEK 2

(Open date: Pittsburgh)

Sunday, Sept. 10

Tampa Bay 41, BEARS 0
Cleveland 24, Cincinnati 7
Buffalo 27, Green Bay 18
Baltimore 39, Jacksonville 36
Tennessee 17, Kansas City 14 (OT)
Minnesota 13, Miami 7
N.Y. Giants 33, Philadelphia 18
Oakland 38, Indianapolis 31
Denver 42, Atlanta 14
Carolina 38, San Francisco 22
St. Louis 37, Seattle 34
Detroit 15, Washington 10
New Orleans 28, San Diego 27
Arizona 32, Dallas 31

Monday, Sept. 11

New England at N.Y. Jets, 8 p.m.

WEEK 3

(Open date: Arizona, Tennessee, Indianapolis)

Sunday, Sept. 17

N.Y. Giants at BEARS, 3:15 p.m.
Atlanta at Carolina, noon
Buffalo at N.Y. Jets, noon
Cincinnati at Jacksonville, noon
Philadelphia at Green Bay, noon
Pittsburgh at Cleveland, noon
San Diego at Kansas City, noon
San Francisco at St. Louis, noon
Tampa Bay at Detroit, noon
Denver at Oakland, 3:05 p.m.
Minnesota at New England, 3:15 p.m.
New Orleans at Seattle, 3:15 p.m.
Baltimore at Miami, 7:20 p.m.

Monday, Sept. 18

Dallas at Washington, 8 p.m.

WEEK 4

(Open date: Buffalo, Carolina, Minnesota)

Sunday, Sept. 24

Detroit at BEARS, noon
Cincinnati at Baltimore, noon
New England at Miami, noon
Philadelphia at New Orleans, noon
St. Louis at Atlanta, noon
San Francisco at Dallas, noon
Tennessee at Pittsburgh, noon
Green Bay at Arizona, 3:05 p.m.
Cleveland at Oakland, 3:15 p.m.
Kansas City at Denver, 3:15 p.m.
N.Y. Jets at Tampa Bay, 3:15 p.m.
Seattle at San Diego, 3:15 p.m.
Washington at N.Y. Giants, 7:20 p.m.

Monday, Sept. 25

Jacksonville at Indianapolis, 8 p.m.

WEEK 5

(Open date: New Orleans, N.Y. Jets, Oakland)

Sunday, Oct. 1

BEARS at Green Bay, 3:15 p.m.
Baltimore at Cleveland, noon
Dallas at Carolina, noon
Indianapolis at Buffalo, noon
Minnesota at Detroit, noon
N.Y. Giants at Tennessee, noon
Pittsburgh at Jacksonville, noon
San Diego at St. Louis, noon
Miami at Cincinnati, 3:05 p.m.
New England at Denver, 3:05 p.m.
Arizona at San Francisco, 3:15 p.m.
Tampa Bay at Washington, 3:15 p.m.
Atlanta at Philadelphia, 7:20 p.m.

Monday, Oct. 2

Seattle at Kansas City, 8 p.m.

Chicago Bears 2000 Schedule

PRESEASON

Date	Opponent	Bears	Opponent
Sat., Aug. 5	at N.Y. Giants	20	8
Sat., Aug. 12	CLEVELAND BROWNS	19	6
Sat., Aug. 19	at Cincinnati Bengals	20	24
Fri., Aug. 25	TENNESSEE TITANS	28	34

REGULAR SEASON

Sun., Sept. 3	at Minnesota Vikings	27	30
Sun., Sept. 10	at Tampa Bay Buccaneers	0	41
Sun., Sept. 17	NEW YORK GIANTS	3:15 p.m.	FOX
Sun., Sept. 24	DETROIT LIONS	Noon	FOX
Sun., Oct. 1	at Green Bay Packers	3:15 p.m.	FOX
Sun., Oct. 8	NEW ORLEANS SAINTS	Noon	FOX
Sun., Oct. 15	MINNESOTA VIKINGS	7:20 p.m.	ESPN
Sun., Oct. 22	at Philadelphia Eagles	Noon	FOX
Sun., Oct. 29	Bye		
Sun., Nov. 5	INDIANAPOLIS COLTS	Noon	CBS
Sun., Nov. 12	at Buffalo Bills	Noon	FOX
Sun., Nov. 19	TAMPA BAY BUCCANEERS	Noon	FOX
Sun., Nov. 26	at N.Y. Jets	Noon	FOX
Sun., Dec. 3	GREEN BAY PACKERS	7:20 p.m.	ESPN
Sun., Dec. 10	NEW ENGLAND PATRIOTS	Noon	CBS
Sun., Dec. 17	at San Francisco 49ers	3:05 p.m.	FOX
Sun., Dec. 24	at Detroit Lions	Noon	FOX

*Central time

WEEK 6

(Open date: Dallas, Kansas City, St. Louis)

Sunday, Oct. 8

New Orleans at BEARS, noon
Buffalo at Miami, noon
Green Bay at Detroit, noon
Indianapolis at New England, noon
Pittsburgh at N.Y. Jets, noon
Tennessee at Cincinnati, noon
Washington at Philadelphia, noon
N.Y. Giants at Atlanta, 3:05 p.m.
Cleveland at Arizona, 3:15 p.m.
Denver at San Diego, 3:15 p.m.
Oakland at San Francisco, 3:15 p.m.
Seattle at Carolina, 3:15 p.m.
Baltimore at Jacksonville, 7:20 p.m.

Monday, Oct. 9

Tampa Bay at Minnesota, 8 p.m.

WEEK 7

(Open date: Detroit, Miami, Tampa Bay)

Sunday, Oct. 15

Minnesota at BEARS, 7:20 p.m.
Atlanta at St. Louis, noon
Baltimore at Washington, noon
Carolina at New Orleans, noon
Cincinnati at Pittsburgh, noon
Dallas at N.Y. Giants, noon
Oakland at Kansas City, noon
San Diego at Buffalo, noon
Cleveland at Denver, 3:05 p.m.
Indianapolis at Seattle, 3:05 p.m.
N.Y. Jets at New England, 3:05 p.m.
Philadelphia at Arizona, 3:15 p.m.
San Francisco at Green Bay, 3:15 p.m.

Monday, Oct. 16

Jacksonville at Tennessee, 8 p.m.

WEEK 8

(Open date: Green Bay, N.Y. Giants, San Diego)

Thursday, Oct. 19

Detroit at Tampa Bay, 7:20 p.m.

Sunday, Oct. 22

BEARS at Philadelphia, noon
Arizona at Dallas, noon
Buffalo at Minnesota, noon
Cleveland at Pittsburgh, noon
Denver at Cincinnati, noon
New England at Indianapolis, noon
New Orleans at Atlanta, noon
St. Louis at Kansas City, noon
San Francisco at Carolina, noon
Tennessee at Baltimore, noon
Seattle at Oakland, 3:05 p.m.
Washington at Jacksonville, 3:15 p.m.

Monday, Oct. 23

Miami at N.Y. Jets, 8 p.m.

WEEK 9

(Open date: BEARS, Denver, New England)

Sunday, Oct. 29

Carolina at Atlanta, noon
Cincinnati at Cleveland, noon
Detroit at Indianapolis, noon
Green Bay at Miami, noon
Minnesota at Tampa Bay, noon
N.Y. Jets at Buffalo, noon
Pittsburgh at Baltimore, noon
St. Louis at San Francisco, 3:05 p.m.

New Orleans at Arizona, 3:05 p.m.
Philadelphia at N.Y. Giants, 3:05 p.m.
Jacksonville at Dallas, 3:15 p.m.
Kansas City at Seattle, 3:15 p.m.
Oakland at San Diego, 7:20 p.m.

Monday, Oct. 30

Tennessee at Washington, 8 p.m.

WEEK 10

(Open date: Jacksonville)

Sunday, Nov. 5

Indianapolis at BEARS, noon
Baltimore at Cincinnati, noon
Buffalo at New England, noon
Dallas at Philadelphia, noon
Miami at Detroit, noon
N.Y. Giants at Cleveland, noon
Pittsburgh at Tennessee, noon
San Francisco at New Orleans, noon
Tampa Bay at Atlanta, noon
Washington at Arizona, 3:05 p.m.
San Diego at Seattle, 3:15 p.m.
Denver at N.Y. Jets, 3:15 p.m.
Kansas City at Oakland, 3:15 p.m.
Carolina at St. Louis, 7:20 p.m.

Monday, Nov. 6

Minnesota at Green Bay, 8 p.m.

WEEK 11

(Open date: Washington)

Sunday, Nov. 12

BEARS at Buffalo, noon
Arizona at Minnesota, noon
Atlanta at Detroit, noon
Baltimore at Tennessee, noon
Seattle at Jacksonville, noon
Cincinnati at Dallas, noon
New England at Cleveland, noon
New Orleans at Carolina, noon
Philadelphia at Pittsburgh, noon
Miami at San Diego, 3:05 p.m.
Kansas City at San Francisco, 3:05 p.m.
Green Bay at Tampa Bay, 3:15 p.m.
St. Louis at N.Y. Giants, 3:15 p.m.
N.Y. Jets at Indianapolis, 7:20 p.m.

Monday, Nov. 13

Oakland at Denver, 8 p.m.

WEEK 12

(Open date: Seattle)

Sunday, Nov. 19

Tampa Bay at BEARS, noon
Arizona at Philadelphia, noon
Buffalo at Kansas City, noon
Carolina at Minnesota, noon
Cincinnati at New England, noon
Cleveland at Tennessee, noon
Detroit at N.Y. Giants, noon
Oakland at New Orleans, noon
Indianapolis at Green Bay, noon
San Diego at Denver, 3:05 p.m.
N.Y. Jets at Miami, 3:15 p.m.
Dallas at Baltimore, 3:15 p.m.
Atlanta at San Francisco, 3:15 p.m.
Jacksonville at Pittsburgh, 7:20 p.m.

Monday, Nov. 20

Washington at St. Louis, 8 p.m.

WEEK 13

(Open date: San Francisco)

Thursday, Nov. 23

New England at Detroit, 11:30 a.m.
Minnesota at Dallas, 3:05 p.m.

Sunday, Nov. 26

BEARS at N.Y. Jets, noon
Buffalo at Tampa Bay, noon
Cleveland at Baltimore, noon
Miami at Indianapolis, noon
New Orleans at St. Louis, noon
Philadelphia at Washington, noon
Pittsburgh at Cincinnati, noon
Atlanta at Oakland, 3:05 p.m.
Tennessee at Jacksonville, 3:15 p.m.
Denver at Seattle, 3:15 p.m.
Kansas City at San Diego, 3:15 p.m.
N.Y. Giants at Arizona, 7:20 p.m.

Monday, Nov. 27

Green Bay at Carolina, 8 p.m.

WEEK 14

(Open date: Baltimore)

Thursday, Nov. 30

Detroit at Minnesota, 7:20 p.m.

Sunday, Dec. 3

Green Bay at BEARS, 7:20 p.m.
Arizona at Cincinnati, noon
Dallas at Tampa Bay, noon
Denver at New Orleans, noon
Miami at Buffalo, noon
N.Y. Giants at Washington, noon
Oakland at Pittsburgh, noon
St. Louis at Carolina, noon
Seattle at Atlanta, noon
Tennessee at Philadelphia, noon
San Francisco at San Diego, 3:05 p.m.
Indianapolis at N.Y. Jets, 3:15 p.m.
Cleveland at Jacksonville, 3:15 p.m.

Monday, Dec. 4

Kansas City at New England, 8 p.m.

WEEK 15

(Open date: Atlanta)

Sunday, Dec. 10

New England at BEARS, noon
Arizona at Jacksonville, noon
Carolina at Kansas City, noon
Cincinnati at Tennessee, noon
Detroit at Green Bay, noon
Minnesota at St. Louis, noon
Philadelphia at Cleveland, noon
Pittsburgh at N.Y. Giants, noon
San Diego at Baltimore, noon
Tampa Bay at Miami, noon
Seattle at Denver, 3:05 p.m.
Washington at Dallas, 3:15 p.m.
New Orleans at San Francisco, 3:15 p.m.
N.Y. Jets at Oakland, 7:20 p.m.

Monday, Dec. 11

Buffalo at Indianapolis, 8 p.m.

WEEK 16

(Open date: Philadelphia)

Saturday, Dec. 16

Washington at Pittsburgh, 11:30 a.m.
Oakland at Seattle, 4:05 p.m.

Sunday, Dec. 17

BEARS at San Francisco, 3:05 p.m.
Atlanta at New Orleans, noon
Denver at Kansas City, noon
Detroit at N.Y. Jets, noon
Green Bay at Minnesota, noon
Jacksonville at Cincinnati, noon
New England at Buffalo, noon
San Diego at Carolina, noon
Tennessee at Cleveland, noon
Baltimore at Arizona, 3:15 p.m.
Indianapolis at Miami, 3:15 p.m.
N.Y. Giants at Dallas, 7:20 p.m.

Monday, Dec. 18

St. Louis at Tampa Bay, 8 p.m.

WEEK 17

(Open date: Cleveland)

Saturday, Dec. 23

Jacksonville at N.Y. Giants, 11:30 a.m.
San Francisco at Denver, 3:15 p.m.
Buffalo at Seattle, 7:20 p.m.

Sunday, Dec. 24

BEARS at Detroit, noon
Arizona at Washington, noon
Tampa Bay at Green Bay, noon
St. Louis at New Orleans, noon
Cincinnati at Philadelphia, noon
Kansas City at Atlanta, noon
Miami at New England, noon
N.Y. Jets at Baltimore, noon
Pittsburgh at San Diego, 3:05 p.m.
Minnesota at Indianapolis, 3:15 p.m.
Carolina at Oakland, 3:15 p.m.

Monday, Dec. 25

Dallas at Tennessee, 8 p.m.



Central Issues

By David Marran



DETROIT LIONS

This week: Tampa Bay
Series: Lions lead 25-19 and have won 4 of 5 and 9 of 11.

Last Meeting: Lions lost 23-16 Dec. 12, 1999 at Tampa. Detroit blew a 10-0 lead as John Lynch's interception of a Gus Frerotte pass set up Mike Alstott's game-winning score on a 22-yard screen pass from Shaun King.

Scouting Report: It may not matter who the Lions have at quarterback when they host the Tampa Bay Buccaneers Sunday. Whether it's the healing Charlie Batch or backup Stoney Case, the QB will be charged with the task of attacking the most ferocious defense in the NFC. Batch entered the regular season still recovering from a kneecap injury. Case, the former Arizona Cardinal, started the Lions' season opener against the New Orleans Saints.

Although the Lions won, Detroit they mustered just 187 total yards and 10 first downs while converting just four of 16 third downs. Case was 13 of 25 for 100 yards with one interception. Seven of the Lions' 14 points came on Desmond Howard's 95-yard punt return for a touchdown.

If Batch is healthy enough to battle the Bucs, look for the Lions to get more use out of dangerous receivers Johnnie Morton and Herman Moore. If Case has to start, the Lions have to get more out of their running game to counter the hard-charging Buccaneer defense. Against the Saints, new running back James Stewart did gain 78 yards but he only averaged 3.1 yards a carry.

While the Lion offense sputtered, the defense turned in a solid performance against the Saints. The Lions held the Saints to 13 first downs, 146 passing yards and one touchdown. Then again, those were the Saints and they didn't have the weapons the Bucs possess.

Notes: The Lions picked up running back Mario Bates on the eve of the regular season to help shore up their running game. No terms of the contracts were disclosed.



GREEN BAY PACKERS

This Week: Philadelphia
Series: Packers lead 21-9.

Last Meeting: Packers won, 24-16, Nov. 29, 1998 at Lambeau Field. Brett Favre threw for 321 yards and two touchdowns and Bill Schroeder grabbed five passes for 128 yards as the Packers cruised.

Scouting Report: The Packers almost seem resigned to the fact that they will have to deal with Favre's injuries on a weekly basis.

Heading into the season opening loss against the New York Jets, it was the tendinitis in his elbow that forced him to sit out most of the preseason. Following the game, there was more concern over Favre's thumb. Favre's thumb swelled up after the game bringing to mind the injury that limited the three-time MVP's effectiveness in 1999.

There were even some calls for Favre to sit down in favor of backup Matt Hasselback if the injuries were too painful. Against the Jets, Favre was 14 of 34 for 152 yards with one touchdown and one interception.

With Favre limited, the Packers need a strong running game. With top running back Dorsey Levens still battling injuries, Green Bay needs reserves such as Basil Mitchell, Ahman Green and Herbert "Whisper" Goodman to step up. Against the Jets, that did not happen and the Packers were limited to just one touchdown. If the running game doesn't respond, the Packers will need fullback William Henderson and tight ends Bubba Franks and Tyrone Davis to thrive in the passing game.

Notes: Cornerback Mike McKenzie suffered a lateral cartilage tear in the left knee during the opener. An MRI performed recently disclosed the extent of the injury and McKenzie will undergo remedial arthroscopic surgery the Wednesday following the opener. "His return," Packer general manager Ron Wolf said, "will be as soon as possible, based on weekly evaluations." McKenzie will remain on the team's active roster while rehabbing the injury, Wolf said.



MINNESOTA VIKINGS

This Week: At New England
Series: Vikings trail 4-3. The Patriots have won two of the last three games in overtime.

Last meeting: Vikings won, 23-18, at Minnesota.

Scouting Report: It will be interesting to see how young quarterback Daunte Culpepper responds in his first road start. Culpepper was brilliant on opening day against the Bears but that was with the whole stadium behind him. Sunday, he will venture into one of the most hostile environments in the NFL. Add to that the fact that two weeks of Culpepper's game will be on film and it could be a game of adjustments for Culpepper.

Still, the Patriots will find the 260-pound signal caller difficult to defend. Just ask the Bears. Culpepper rushed for 79 yards and three touchdowns and threw for 179 yards in the win over Chicago on opening day.

"You don't see many guys that big running with a football unless they've picked up a fumble," Minnesota running back Robert Smith said. "He's something completely different. He's creating a mold that hasn't been set yet."

Making Culpepper's life easier is his supporting cast. No matter what the Patriots try to do, Culpepper will always have a talented player to rely on whether it be Smith, Cris Carter or Randy Moss.

While inexperienced, Culpepper is smart enough to know what to do should the Pats start taking things away from him. "I always like a challenge like that because I feel I'm a guy that can make plays," Culpepper said.

If the first week was any indication, the Vikings could be in for a few track meets this season. The Bears rolled up 425 yards in total offense against the Vikings.

Notes: Prior to the opener, the Vikings signed veteran cornerback Cris Dishman. The two-time Pro Bowler was released by the Kansas City Chiefs a week before the opener. Dishman started 16 games in his only season with the Chiefs in 1999.



TAMPA BAY BUCS

This Week: At Detroit
Series: Bucs trail 25-19 and have lost 4 of 5 and 9 of 11.

Last Meeting: Bucs won 23-16 Dec. 12, 1999 at Tampa. Current Bear Brad Culpepper helped the Bucs rally from a 10-0 deficit with a sack for a safety.

Scouting Report: The Tampa Bay Buccaneers will not be bringing the offense the Detroit Lions have been used to seeing into the Pontiac Silverdome Sunday.

Gone is Trent Dilfer and the "three-yards-and-a-cloud-of-dust" offense that barely complemented one of the top defenses in the NFL. In place is a balanced, diverse offense thanks to Shaun King, Keshawyn Johnson and offensive coordinator Les Steckel.

The Buccaneers unveiled that offense in their 21-16 win over the New England Patriots on opening day. With King at the controls, Steckel not only used Johnson but he utilized reverses, misdirections, trick plays, wacky formations with guards in the backfield, fake spikes and the more traditional play-action passes.

King threw for 167 yards and Tampa Bay rushed for 140, displaying the kind of balance coach Tony Dungy feels is necessary for the team to live up to expectations of contending for a Super Bowl berth.

While the Bucs will throw a new-look offense at the Lions, Detroit will get the same old, vaunted Tampa Bay defense.

Defensive tackle Warren Sapp & Co. got off to a great start this season by dropping Patriot quarterback Drew Bledsoe six times in the opener. In addition, it took the Pats nearly 57 minutes to score against the Tampa Bay defense.

Notes: Buccaneers offensive tackle Paul Gruber announced his retirement Sept. 5 after 12 NFL seasons. Gruber, a fixture at left tackle for the Buccaneers, owns club records for most games played and started (183), as well as most continuous years of service.

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VIEWPOINT

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Victory slips away

Perhaps it's a cliché to say the Bears beat themselves in their season opener against Minnesota, but I'm saying it anyway. The Bears beat themselves. What looked like a victory going into the late third quarter slipped away with Daunte Culpepper being able to run at will down the stretch.

Rookie Mike Brown failed to recover a Randy Moss fumble that would have given the Bears some great field position. Shortly thereafter, Randy Moss caught his only long pass of the game over a leaping Thomas Smith. You simply can't give the Minnesota offense second chances. That long bomb was Smith's only slip of the game as he blanketed Moss for the entire game. He has already showed why he was signed in the off-season.

With the Bears driving in the final minutes, Cade McNown called a foolish time-out after a catch by Marcus Robinson where he wisely made it out of bounds. You can't give away timeouts like that. Another costly error came from Bobby Engram when he committed an illegal motion penalty that negated a McNown rushing touchdown.

The most costly error, in my opinion, came from an aged veteran. Blake Brockermeyer retaliated to a roughing the passer penalty that would have given the Bears some great field position. Instead, the Bears ended up punting the ball away. Brockermeyer is a veteran and the error he made simply can't happen from a player of his caliber.

If you think James Allen won't get the majority of the carries this season after his performance against the Vikings—both you and Curtis Enis have another thing coming.

Eric J. Cooper
Boulder, Colorado

Bears must learn to win

Fan Foto



Bear fan Dennis Maierhofer of Mt. Prospect, Ill., sent us this photo of Willie Galimore's game jersey from the late 1950s.

WE WANT YOUR OPINIONS!

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- What's the team's key to success?
- Which new player will make the greatest impact?

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I'm sick and tired of watching the Bears choke. I'm convinced that the Bears do not know how to win games. It's no longer a question of talent that is missing from the Bears roster—they don't have heart, mental toughness and leadership. And someone please hire offensive coordinator Gary Crowton and take him out of Chicago. Send him to the Arena Football League or the XFL. We are not the Rams, we cannot pass the ball 40 plus times a game. The best football teams are balanced and do not rely on gimmick plays to win. Until the Bears find an offensive and defensive coordinator who understand how to win in the NFL, we will remain a mediocre team that will continue to win enough games to prevent us from acquiring the premier rookies in the draft. And we will continue to lose the close games that are needed to build the confidence that all playoff teams have.

Bill Vandiver
Clifton, Texas

Expand Allen's role

I was very impressed with James Allen's performance in the season-opening loss to the Vikings and I hope he becomes a more significant part of the offense. While I know ball-control offenses are no longer the rage, I believe that a more-balanced offense would allow the Bears to put more points on the board and most importantly keep the defense rested and

off the field.

Good luck to the Bears this season, and I hope Allen can stay healthy so we can see just how good he can be. I think he will prove to be an excellent starter who is more tailored to Gary Crowton's offense than Curtis Enis.

Dan Ferguson
Des Moines, Iowa

Engram deserves credit

Marcus Robinson receives most of the publicity, but I think one of the most integral parts of the Bears' offensive attack is Bobby Engram. This guy gets none of the credit he deserves. Engram does all the dirty work—he goes over the middle, takes the tough hit, and always comes down with the ball. I'm glad he's back with the Bears, but I was disappointed he did-

n't attract any decent free agent offers. That proves how underappreciated his abilities are.

Steven Mueller
Seattle, Washington

Make Urlacher a starter

If the Bears had the Steel Curtain, the Purple People-Eaters or even the old Orange Crush on defense, I could see not starting first-round draft pick Brian Urlacher. But I can't believe a defense that ranked near the bottom of the league last year can afford to have a playmaker like Urlacher on the bench. I know he plays in the nickel defense, but he should be on the field for every down. Who cares if he makes an occasional mistake? He certainly wouldn't be alone in that regard and at least he'd be gaining valuable game experience. I say put him in there and leave him alone for the next 10 years or so!

Brad Cameron
Rockton, Illinois

Trivia Trove answer



Morten Andersen's 60-yarder in 1991 is the longest field goal kicked against the Bears.

(From page 17)



BEAR WANT ADS

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Contact: Duane Billhartz, 1826 N. Charles, Belleville, IL 62221, (618) 234-1536.

WANTED: VHS tapes of all four Bears preseason games.

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WANTED: To correspond with fellow Bears fans.

Contact: Alex Sanchez, K-86771, High Desert State Prison, P.O. Box 3030/C4-108, Susanville, CA 96127.

WANTED: Two tickets to Bears-Indianapolis Colts game Nov. 5 at Soldier Field. Also Blackhawks tickets Nov. 5 and Nov. 8.

Contact: Mike Otte, 2608 Markwood Street, Duarte, CA 91010-1341, (626) 357-6638, e-mail: [mmotte@bigfoot.com](mailto: mmotte@bigfoot.com).

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BOB LeGERE



Vikings wide receiver Randy Moss may be the most spectacular player in the NFL, as he proved once again in Minnesota's season-opening 30-27 victory over the Bears with a 66-yard reception. And Moss' teammate, Cris Carter, is a first-ballot Hall of Famer.

The Bears' Marcus Robinson had his own highlight-film 48-yard TD catch in the opener, but it was Robinson's teammate, Bobby Engram, who led all receivers in that game with eight catches, two more than Moss and Carter combined.

Lost amid Robinson's 1,400-yard, 9-TD breakout season a year ago; Carter's 90 catches for 1,241 yards and 13 touchdowns; and Moss' 80 catches, 1,413 yards and 11 TDs were Engram's accomplishments. He had at least 3 catches in 15 games last season, something none of the others can say, and his 88 catches were third best in the NFC.

It's easy to overlook Engram when the Bears and Vikings meet, and not just because he's at least 5 inches shorter than any of those

other three wideouts. Engram's consistency and reliability aren't as flashy as a 50-yard touchdown, but they're integral to the success of the Bears' passing game.

"He's sort of the perfect complement to all our young guys," vice president of personnel Mark Hatley said. "With him, we've got one guy that we're extremely sure is going to get open and catch the ball and do the right thing."

Engram lacks the size of teammates like Robinson, Macey Brooks, D'Wayne Bates, Dez White and Marty Booker and the sprinter's speed of Eddie Kennison and Robinson, but his combination of hands, moves and quickness are the best on the team. He's also the most meticulous route-runner on the roster.

"I've always been considered a precise route runner," Engram said. "Even back in college, it's

one thing that I took pride in. That's one thing that I saw that gave me success. If you can make a lot of your routes look the same and the DB can't get an advantage on you, then obviously you're going to get some separation from him. I try to study the DBs and feel like I can have a couple moves on each guy to get open. Basically, it's knowing who you're going against and trusting in yourself and letting the quarterback know what you're doing - don't fool the quarterback."

Engram also has the courage to make the difficult catch over the middle where others fear to tread.

"Bobby's as tough a guy as there is," offensive coordinator Gary Crowton said. "He's the most experienced receiver we have by far on the team. He's getting more and more pol-

ished. Bobby's always solid in there."

Without the benefit of great size or speed, Engram has utilized other facets of his game to lead the Bears in receptions the past two seasons. It would have been three straight, but a sprained ankle sidelined him for five weeks late in the '97 season, when he had a team-best 43 catches after 10 games.

His eight catches vs. the Vikings gave Engram a career total of 238 just one game into his fifth season and elevated him into a tie for seventh on the Bears' all-time list with Dick Gordon. Engram has caught at least one pass in 34 straight games, tying him with Willie Gault for third best in team history. Mike Ditka (49) and Walter Payton (45) have the only longer streaks for the Bears.

Continued on page 10

You May Love Him, You May Hate Him...

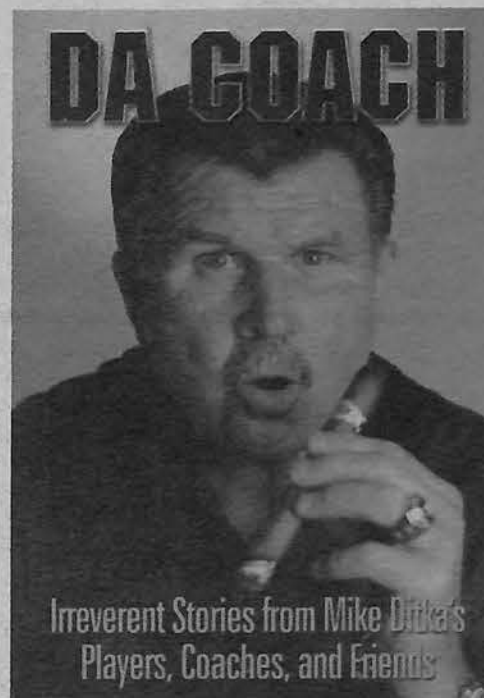
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"If you look at the Bear logo and a picture of him, there's not much difference. He's a human being in a bear's hat."

--Mike North



Photo by Steve Woltmann

Bobby Engram is bidding to become the first Bear to lead the team in receptions for three straight years since Walter Payton from 1983-85.

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